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imagined with Intel
Smarter technology for all
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AI PCs bring transformative power to K-12 education
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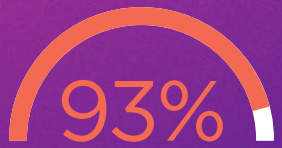
AI is here. In 2025, schools that embrace AI PCs will have the tools needed to prepare students for a connected future. With AI spending set to skyrocket 2.8x,[1] now is the moment to rethink how your school works, secures data, and boosts productivity.

Much of that growth will be driven by educational organizations making stronger investments in generative AI. While predictive and interpretive AI implementations were focus areas for schools in 2024, generative AI (GenAI) implementations will see more than 3x growth in the next 12 months at the expense of these other AI categories.[2]

This explosive growth in AI use reflects a growing desire among education leaders to apply this technology to enable key outcomes including improvements to tech stack sustainability, easier regulatory compliance, and increased employee productivity. One of the easiest ways to start reaping the benefits of AI is to provide staff with AI-enabled PCs.



Many schools are now moving in this direction, with 93% of K-12 organizations already considering or piloting this approach.[3]

Use cases continue to expand, with teachers relying on AI to assist with administrative duties as well as helping develop more personalized resources to meet the unique needs of individual students.

This eBook provides insights into the many ways that AI PCs can deliver productivity gains, enhanced user experience, and security improvements to your organization. In particular, it highlights how Lenovo Aura Edition devices, imagined with Intel®, can meet today's education needs, especially when paired with service offerings like Lenovo's Device as a Service (DaaS), Asset Recovery Services (ARS), and Premier Support Plus. A step-by-step checklist at the end provides guidance on how to unleash innovation and empower your school with AI PCs.

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AI use cases for operations[4]

- Marketing
- Software Development
- IT Operations
- Customer Service
- Finance

Unlocking potential with AI PCs

The initial introduction of AI technologies into schools was greeted with a mixture of both anxiety about its impact on academic integrity and learning practices and optimism about the possibilities it might bring to life in improving learning outcomes. Despite mixed feelings, education leaders are familiarizing themselves with the value that AI can deliver while seeking ways to address the downsides.

In fact, according to the Consortium for School Network's (CoSN) "2024 State of EdTech District Leadership" report, there are two areas, in particular, where EdTech leaders feel that AI use has the potential for positively impacting education[5]:

43% Productivity

30% Personalization

Many IT leaders view AI PC deployment as a key strategy to unlocking AI's potential inside their education organizations, including elevating staff productivity, personalizing educational resources for students, and maintaining the security of sensitive student and staff data.

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What is an AI PC?

AI PCs are specially designed and equipped to manage and accelerate the execution of AI tasks. In addition to the traditional CPUs and GPUs, AI PCs include discrete neural processing units (NPUs) that are designed specifically to handle AI computations faster and more efficiently. The primary benefits that AI PCs deliver include:

- **Quicker results:** With no need to push tasks out to and back from a cloud-based AI platform, users receive their prompt results faster, boosting their overall productivity and delivering an enhanced user experience.
- **Personalized experiences:** Locally run AI applications are flexible, able to adapt to each user's preferences and work habits. This enables customized interactions and on-device support when needed, providing a better overall user experience.
- **Enhanced security:** With the entire AI task taking place on the device, the data is never in transit nor visible on another piece of hardware. Sensitive or confidential data is never made vulnerable to potential security threats nor is it used in external large language model (LLM) and small language model (SLM) training.

How AI PCs meet device refresh needs

When it comes to making decisions around device refreshes, IT leaders are faced with the very difficult challenge of balancing numerous organizational needs. Very often, device features needed by one department or team are different from the needs of others. The stakes are now raised when considering AI PCs, which have the potential to greatly enhance worker productivity and unlock other value within the organization.

How teachers are using AI

The top 3 ways that teachers are using AI in the classroom:[6]

52%
Brainstorming and idea generation

46%
Creating teaching materials

30%
Lesson planning

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Pumping up productivity

IT leaders charged with refreshing devices also have an eye toward positively impacting educator and staff productivity. Improving employee productivity is a priority for educational organizations investing in AI.[7] This widely held goal positions AI PCs as a great resource to deliver the tools that staff need to drive improved productivity. In addition, on-device AI means there's less compute traffic clogging school data centers, allowing for more efficient and strategic use of these costly resources.

The productivity improvements tied to AI PCs extend to IT support teams as well. Many AI PCs are packaged with automated diagnostics and updates that streamline device maintenance and keep them up and running more consistently. These additional device support resources reduce the burden on the organization's IT team and allow them to focus on more mission-critical projects.

Enhancing the user experience

Compared to a standard PC, AI-enabled PCs offer a more robust user experience. AI PCs automate diagnostics and update processes. This automation means that the device is consistently adjusting to the user, depending on the tasks they are working on, to deliver an optimal experience. New software versions pushed out by OEMs and software developers are updated automatically. All of this happens in the background, with no effort on the user's part. This is especially beneficial when it comes to power consumption. AI PCs are better able to manage power in a way that lengthens the battery life.

AI PCs are also able to deliver a more personalized user experience. The devices observe the user's behavior and work habits. Over time, they are able to optimize power settings and even suggest relevant applications for the user to open. This is true for the collaboration experience on AI PCs as well. When users are videoconferencing on the device, the AI can automatically adjust the video and audio features to deliver an optimal experience to the user.

Device security considerations

A top concern with device refreshes is maintaining security and safeguarding sensitive data. K-12 educational organizations make attractive targets for cybercriminals because they possess a cache of valuable personal information belonging to students and staff that can be vulnerable due to IT security budget constraints. According to CoSN, cybersecurity has been a top technology priority for education leaders for the last three years.[8] This is especially true when you are considering AI-enabled PCs due to their access to and use of student and staff data.

Maintaining security with AI-powered devices can be particularly challenging for organizations that have flexible and adaptable learning situations that sometimes include remote learning. Accommodating remote staff and students greatly expands the organization's attack surface because of the variety of user devices and poorly secured home networks.

Schools with mixed-OS environments rather than a single dominant platform also present unique security challenges. Devices running on different OSes make for a complex security environment requiring the management of differing security protocols and patch management routines.

88% of all PCs shipped in 2027 will be AI-enabled, according to IDC.[9]

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The refresh answer: The Lenovo Aura Edition experience

EdTech leaders looking to thread the device refresh needle now have a clear choice: Lenovo Aura Edition AI PCs, imagined with Intel®. Aura Edition devices offer incredible AI performance with Intel® Core™ Ultra processors for unprecedented experiences, delivering a more personalized, protected, and productive user experience.

Cool, quiet, thin, and powerful, Aura Edition AI PCs boast best-in-class battery life and astonishing graphics. Users are equipped to master the most intensive workloads and complex AI prompts with up to 120 systems trillion operations per second (TOPS) thanks to the latest Intel® Core™ Ultra processors. In addition, Lenovo Aura Edition AI PCs offer exclusive experiences with Smart Modes, which users can activate to automate common tasks and group settings, as well as optimize system performance.

Delivering on the productivity promise

Improving educator and staff productivity is a priority for education leaders. Toward that goal, IT leaders are looking to AI PCs to deliver on helping staff function more effectively. Enabling greater productivity has to start with supporting easy access to AI. Lenovo Aura Edition devices are equipped with Intel® Core™ Ultra processors that deliver 45 TOPS and enable the speedy processing of AI workloads on the device.

Schools gain assistance with maintaining the health of their fleet devices through **Smart Care**, an on-device app that delivers a unified support services experience to users. Smart Care automates systems diagnostics and updates, which decreases the amount of time the IT support team needs to allocate toward basic device upkeep. Lenovo Aura Edition AI PCs are designed to outlast traditional PCs. With diagnostics and Smart Care predictive maintenance, some educational organizations have extended refresh cycles to four years and beyond, significantly reducing costs. All of this keeps devices operational and supporting busy staff in their work.

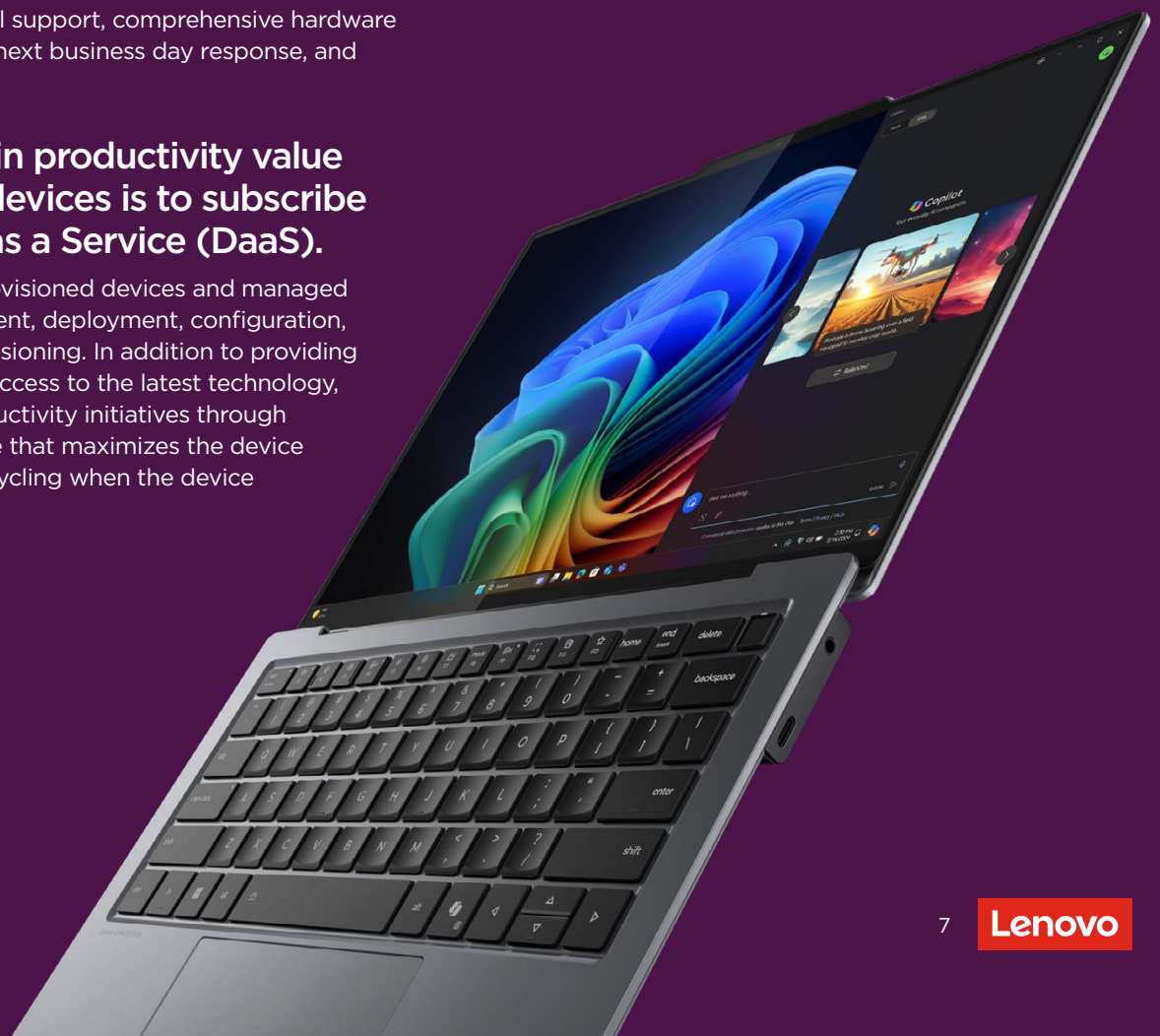
If a problem does come up that the user cannot resolve with the available self-help resources, Smart Care offers real-time troubleshooting and support from technicians. Whether through chat, phone call, or video call, Lenovo technicians can speed up resolution times.

Lenovo Services sustaining productivity

Lenovo offers services that help support your staff productivity and device health. The first is **Lenovo Premier Support Plus**. This comprehensive IT support program keeps users and their devices up and running with break/fix support for broken machines, 24/7/365 advanced technical support, comprehensive hardware and OEM software support, next business day response, and onsite labor for repairs.

Another way to gain productivity value with Aura Edition devices is to subscribe to Lenovo Device as a Service (DaaS).

This service bundles fully provisioned devices and managed services including procurement, deployment, configuration, maintenance, and decommissioning. In addition to providing predictable budgeting and access to the latest technology, Lenovo DaaS supports productivity initiatives through ongoing device maintenance that maximizes the device lifecycle and responsible recycling when the device reaches end of life.



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Amplifying the user experience

Aura Edition AI PCs can deliver a more robust user experience. Employees gain access to a modern, updated work experience with all the perks that it entails, including a more robust battery life. AI helps them work the way they want to work, providing educators and staff with tools to organize and manage their workflows for maximum personal productivity. The Lenovo ThinkPad® X9 14 Aura Edition, imagined with Intel®, and other Aura Edition devices are packaged with a variety of automated Smart Modes that uniquely support staff productivity in different ways.

Shield Mode: This mode delivers a variety of automated security features that protect users so they can focus on the task at hand without worry.

Collaboration Mode: This mode automatically makes device adjustments to improve and maintain a productive virtual meeting experience while ensuring effective communication with video effect features.

Attention Mode: When engaged, this mode blocks access to pre-set domains and notifications, providing a focused and productive user experience.

Power Mode: This mode automatically reduces device power consumption and improves battery performance, ensuring that staff get as much productive use out of their devices as they can until they are able to recharge them.

Wellness Mode: With this mode, the digital health (and overall productivity) of staff is supported through automated alerts to take eye breaks from the computer screen and to make posture adjustments to help maintain good ergonomics.

In addition to these Smart Modes, Lenovo Aura Edition devices support productive collaboration through Smart Share. This feature allows iOS and Android smartphones to automatically transfer photos and files to an Aura Edition device, reducing staff-to-staff collaboration to a simple tap. Transfers are only possible between devices that have been downloaded and authorized with the Intel® Unison™ app.

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Shields up with Aura Edition security features

Lenovo Aura Edition devices offer some unique security features thanks to AI technology. To start with, the device's localized AI technology reduces exposure to security risks. Rather than transport your school's data to an external cloud for processing, which opens it up to the possibility of manipulation and theft while in transit and during processing on the exterior AI platform, Aura Edition devices with on-device AI can process sensitive data on the device itself. This greatly reduces the potential for school data to be exposed to malicious actors. Being able to use AI to process data on local devices is especially beneficial for schools needing to align to student data privacy regulations.

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Like all Aura Edition devices, the Lenovo ThinkPad® X1 Carbon Gen 13 Aura Edition, imagined with Intel®, gives users access to Shield Mode, one of the Smart Modes the device offers that focuses on increasing security. **Shield Mode** makes use of computer vision to warn users if someone is looking over their shoulder as they work and automatically blurs the computer screen. If the device is on a public Wi-Fi network, Shield Mode automatically prompts the VPN to secure the device's traffic.

Aura Edition devices include additional layers of security through **Lenovo ThinkShield® and Intel vPro®**, which safeguard devices with fully customizable hardware, software, and services solutions that secure your organization from a wide spectrum of threats, starting below the operating system and safeguarding you all the way into the cloud.

End-to-end protection starts with **Firmware Resiliency 2.0**, which expands self-healing capabilities beyond the core BIOS and provides autonomous, non-bypassable, and immutable functionality that becomes the additional hardware root of trust measure, verifying the signatures of multiple parts of the platform hardware, firmware, and configuration. SecureWipe 2.0 allows IT teams to delete sensitive data on a drive without using external tools or removing the drive and running log reports to confirm the SSD or HDD has been wiped.

Lenovo's commitment to security extends beyond the usable life of our devices. **Lenovo Asset Recovery Services** (ARS) help mitigate the environmental and data security risks associated with end-of-life asset disposal. As part of ARS, we provide all legal documentation and certificates associated with proper data destruction and environmental processing. ARS can even offset some of the costs of your organization's refresh and help simplify the transition from old to new.

Transforming your school with the power of AI PCs

With spending on AI initiatives set to grow nearly 3x over the coming 12 months, schools are at an inflection point. Those who pivot into the benefits will be positioned to apply AI's potential to improve the learning process for educators and students.

Lenovo Aura Edition PCs powered by the latest Intel® Core™ Ultra processors offer a way to quickly put the transformative power of AI into the hands of your workforce, especially when paired with service offerings like Lenovo's Device as a Service (DaaS), Asset Recovery Services (ARS), and Premier Support Plus. AI is reshaping work — and your school can greatly benefit from its potential. AI PCs are no longer an experiment. They are the future of work, security, and efficiency. The question isn't if you'll adopt AI PCs — it's how soon.

Ready to transform your school? Contact your Lenovo team for a free consultation with an AI solutions specialist or visit Lenovo Aura Edition Education to learn more.

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Sources:

1 IDC, "CIO Playbook 2025 Survey," commissioned by Lenovo, February 2025
2 IDC, "CIO Playbook 2025 Survey," commissioned by Lenovo, February 2025
3 IDC, "CIO Playbook 2025 Survey," commissioned by Lenovo, February 2025
4 IDC, "CIO Playbook 2025 Survey," commissioned by Lenovo, February 2025
5 Consortium for School Networks (CoSN), "2024 State of EdTech District Leadership," October 2024
6 Carnegie Learning, "The State of AI in Education," August 2024
7 IDC, "CIO Playbook 2025 Survey," commissioned by Lenovo, February 2025
8 Consortium for School Networks (CoSN), "2024 State of EdTech District Leadership," October 2024
9 IDC, "CIO Playbook 2025 Survey," commissioned by Lenovo, February 2025

AI PC deployment and transformation roadmap

Integrating AI PCs into your educational organization is no small feat. Yes, you've rolled out PCs before, but adding AI into the mix impacts everything. To make the most of your device deployment, follow this step-by-step plan to maximize your organization's sustainability, productivity, security, and ROI with Lenovo Aura Edition PCs, imagined with Intel®.

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01

Deploy and build IT readiness

- **Infrastructure review:** Assess the current IT infrastructure for AI PC compatibility.
- **Security policy assessment:** Review and update security policies that might be impacted by AI PC data processing. Accommodate hybrid AI processing, both in the cloud and locally.
- **IT team preparation:** Train the IT team on AI PC capabilities and AI-powered security features.
- **Pilot program:** Launch an AI PC pilot focused on high-impact users — for example, with administrators, teachers or operations teams.
- **Gather data:** Monitor early AI-attributed productivity and security gains.

02

Expand the rollout and optimize security

- **Expand rollout:** Scale AI PC deployment to additional operational functions (HR, IT, finance, child nutrition, security).
- **Implement AI security:** Implement AI-powered threat detection (Shield Mode on devices, as well as ThinkShield).
- **Reduce AI services:** Where possible, start reducing dependencies on external cloud services to cut costs.
- **Implement Smart Care:** Guide users toward Smart Care to automate troubleshooting and reduce after-hours IT support burden.
- **Track ROI:** Continue gathering data on how and where AI PCs are driving measurable productivity gains.

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AI PC deployment and transformation roadmap

03

Integrating AI into workflows

- **Assess AI workloads:** Work to optimize AI workloads across your hybrid infrastructure: In the cloud and local AI processing.
- **Automate workflows:** Apply AI-driven business intelligence and analytics to guide the automation of workflows.
- **Update collaboration tools:** Deploy AI-powered collaboration technology across the organization.
- **Update power management:** Deploy AI-enabled power management to improve overall energy efficiency across the organization.
- **ROI review:** Measure the impact of AI-driven automation to determine how it is freeing up staff time and driving strategic work gains.

04

Scale AI gains for ongoing transformation

- **Scale AI PC use:** Make AI PCs the foundation for organization-wide AI transformation initiatives.
- **Continue enhancements:** Seek additional AI-driven automation opportunities for greater efficiency and ongoing innovation.
- **Extend device longevity:** Grow the sustainability impact of AI PCs by emphasizing follow-through on predictive maintenance.
- **Grow AI literacy:** Continue updating IT team and leadership on the latest AI innovations.
- **Evaluate results:** Review how AI PC adoption has impacted goals and seek insights for continued improvements.

Ready to take the next step? Contact Lenovo today to develop your customized AI PC adoption roadmap.

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