

The One Laptop per Child (“OLPC”) Vision

The “olpc” concept of education is simple: in order for our children to thrive in the 21st century they must have access to the most advanced learning tools and communities. Continuous innovation in connectivity and digital electronics has made affordable, cost-effective, and adaptable education possible for all children. The networked laptop not only delivers the world to children, but also brings the best practices of children and their teachers to the world. The laptop is the embodiment of a transformation of education.

Many children, especially those in rural parts of developing countries, have few opportunities to learn, having limited access to school and books. Even when available, learning within the walls of a school and within forced curriculum is not enough to meet the educational needs and aspirations of children. Giving a laptop to every child in every classroom supports learning within schools while also sparking the creative and imaginative sides of children, teachers, and their communities. This can help to alleviate overcrowded schools systems, and the cycles of illiteracy, violence and poverty associated with the under-education of children.

While building schools and teacher education will continue, a distinct but supporting method advocated by OLPC puts the children themselves literally at the front of the classroom by engaging them more directly in their own learning. The laptop moves learners beyond instruction by encouraging exploration and project-based learning. Children grow by actively teaching other learners. The laptop also extends learning beyond the classroom by giving the child, and their family new means to learn daily, making lifelong learning an integral part of their lives. The learning, access, and entrepreneurial opportunities this creates have been shown to transform schools and communities. The connected laptop is the best tool for this generation of children to engage in a bright, open future.

The OLPC designed laptop, called the XO, is purchased directly by the government and given to every school-age child in a country, free of charge. The OLPC laptop, over 5 years, is actually less expensive than required textbooks, and offers opportunities for children to move beyond books. Since 2007 OLPC has partnered with government and other NGOs to distribute 1.5 million XOs to help make this concept and humanitarian mission a reality.