

Paperless Schools Show A Promising Future



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Technology is always evolving and making its way into schools, many schools are already using computers and mobile devices to teach. The use of computers and technology could create a paperless environment, where all school resources are online: saving paper, time, and money.

Going paperless has many benefits for both the students and teachers. Paper and books are prone to be lost, forgotten, and damaged, causing the teachers the hassle of countless photocopies and printing. Instead, teachers upload the work and documents online to all the students at once. Going paperless creates many more opportunities for learning and teaching.

Having a paperless school has a lot of benefits, one of the biggest ones being the amount of money saved. According to Chris Zook, “schools pay an average of 250 dollars of textbooks per student” and considering the number of students a school could have this could be a very large sum of money. While on the other hand educational devices such as Chromebooks, go for 100-150 dollars, which is a substantial difference compared to the 250 dollars for textbooks.

With the introduction of distance learning, it was shown that it isn't as hard and expensive a transition as others have argued against paperless. It showed that work could be done completely online, according

to Yale University during the first month of distance learning/work, “there has been a 90% decrease in purchasing paper, and printer associated purchases”. Leading to schools and workplaces saving up to 105,000 dollars of paper costs in April 2020 compared to 2019

Going paperless allows schools to be more time-efficient, but can also improve the school's facilities and supplies. “Going paperless can save school districts upwards of 200,000 dollars a year,” (Tyler Hakes). With this sum of extra money school districts can invest more into schools. A study conducted by Daniel Kreisman and Matthew Steinberg shows that an extra amount of money invested into schools in Texas created “an overall 5-10% test score increase”. Some of the biggest arguments going against a paperless environment include the cost and the life span of the devices, and what is to happen to the paper documents, these obstacles could easily be overcome. By using the textbook budget on the devices, and educating students on how to use their school devices. Scanning and uploading paper documents online are also very easy and possible to do.

Going paperless in schools is a challenging and rigorous task, but with Covid-19 and distance learning, it was proven that it is very possible. The pros of going paperless greatly outweigh the cons. Paperless schools save money, paper, and time, allowing schools to invest more into other places.