

### What is PowerUp?

PowerUp is the one-to-one student-to-laptop initiative by Houston ISD.

### What is the Power up Hub?

The Power up Hub is a password-protected online place where teachers post their lessons and students access the lessons. It is an advanced and evolving Learning Management System (LMS).

### How do students and teachers access the Power up Hub?

After obtaining a username and password, students and teachers may login to the hub at:

[www.houstonisd.org/hub](http://www.houstonisd.org/hub)

### How do students get their username and password?

Parents need to obtain a username and password for each of their students at [Parent Student Connect \(PSConnect\)](#).

### What do students need to do to receive their assigned laptop?

Parents need to sign the [Student laptop Loan Agreement](#) and pay a \$25 usage fee.

### When will the students receive their laptops?

Students that have paid their \$25 laptop usage fees and turned in a signed Agreements on Responsible Use of Technology (RUT) form will receive their laptops on **in September, 2014**.

### How will the laptop distribution work?

Students will go to the room 206 to receive their laptop. An IT squad will scan the barcodes and assign laptops to students. Students will return to class where teachers assist with setup/syncing of Office365 and placing an icon of Office365 and the Hub on their desktops.

### Will the SS Teachers be trained to conduct this deployment? Will they have a support team?

Yes, all SS Teachers will receive device training and deployment guidelines before September 9, 2014. We will have a support staff from HISD IT and TDS. They will be assigned to room 206 to assist with laptop distribution and troubleshoot problems if necessary.

### Do we have enough Wireless Access Points to handle Internet traffic, once students get their laptops?

Yes, we should have enough coverage to handle the expected Internet traffic. 99% of our classrooms have a dedicated Wireless Access Point that can handle up to 35 laptops logging in and accessing the Internet resources. The WAPs connector in the classrooms can be fitted with an extra box for a total of 60+ laptops to connect to the Internet.

### Who is responsible for charging the laptops and other power issues?

The students are responsible for making sure that their laptops are charged over-night and ready for school. They should have their chargers, also. However, we plan to provide extra chargers, two power strips, and an extension cord for every classroom at Sam Houston MSTC.

### Do students need personal credentials to log on to the laptops?

Yes, all Sam Houston High school Students will use their Parent-Student Connect (PS Connect) usernames and password to log on to the Students' accounts on the laptops To go to PS Connect go to [www.houstonisd.org](http://www.houstonisd.org) and click on the tab "Parents and Students".

### Will students receive training about device care, digital citizenship, and Power Up?

Students will receive Digital Citizenship training through their Social Studies classes prior to deployment of the laptops.

Students will also receive extensive training related to device care and proper use of the laptops. After that initial training, we plan to have recurring digital citizenship projects in SS and Elective classes. We will accomplish this school-wide training requirement using Ever-Fi web-based platforms.

### How about web tools?

HISD IT department has an extensive list of tools that students will learn about from their teachers. Teachers will conduct in-class training for each of tech tools they use with their students.

### What should I do, as a teacher, should the Internet connectivity go down and my lesson has been planned around being able to go online?

Have a digital copy of the essential elements of your lesson, activities, media files, and resources on your desktop folder or save a copy on your hard drive. Better yet, have the documents and files saved to an external device such as USB/Jump Drive/external hard drive.

### I want to assign online related homework, but I am afraid my students may not have Internet access at home. What can I do to extend my classroom activities beyond my classroom walls?

You will post the files on the PwerUp Itslearning HUB at [www.houstonisd.org/hub](http://www.houstonisd.org/hub) and have the students download them while in class, or use a USB drive to transfer the materials to their laptops before they go home. Students can also access free WIFI at various locations in Houston. Here are some resources to checkout and share with students:  
[Cheap/free Internet Resources](#)

### I would like to play a video for my students, but my new laptop does not come with a DVD/CD player. What other options do I have?

We have a set of external DVD/CD players available for each content area. You may checkout one for class use. The devices will be shared within the department.

### I did not attend the Saturday Power Up Workshops. I would like to preview the training materials online. Where can I go to access such information?

[Click here](#)

### I need the list of web 2.0 tools covered in our Power Up workshops. Where can I find them?

[Click here](#): to see a visual representation of all the web 2.0 tools introduced to teachers during our Power Up workshops. We also maintain a web page with links to all the tools and useful guiding comments at <http://hisdcit.weebly.com>.

### Once students receive their laptops, will we get technical support during class periods?

Yes, we will have a Help Desk personnel to assist you with the technical issues. We will also have our Junior Tech Team members, student helpers, ready and available to stop by your classrooms, to assist with minor technical issues. Also check the [Tech Tips & Tricks page](#), for quick guides to common problems.

### How about major technical issues with student laptops?

You or the student will fill out a standardized Help Desk Form-to be provided later-and send the student to room 206 for assistance. Once at room 206, the Help Desk staff will troubleshoot the laptop and decide on a course of action. Any repair work lasting more than 15 minutes will require student going back to class with a loaner laptop. We will also pilot-test a paper-less pre-check-in help-desk system starting in October.

### Do we have to use the laptops, in class, everyday?

Yes, you are expected to use the laptops in class every day for at least 5 minutes. This can be easily done by having the students do warm-ups or exit tickets on the laptop. Quoting Chris Marshall: "Use the laptop every day, but not all the time".

**Why are we spending all this money on laptops? Is this the new flavor of the year?**

No, the 1:1 Initiative is here to stay. Within a couple of years, all HISD Schools will adopt the Power Up model. We are lucky to be in the vanguard of this digital revolution. Teachers who adapt now will be ready for future challenges.

**How about our special population kids, will they get laptops to use?**

All Lee High School Students will have the opportunity to have a laptop to use. We may have alternate arrangements for some students. The admin team will consider such cases as they arise.

**Beside web tools, what other digital conversion methods will be presented to teachers and students?**

The Lee High School Power Up strategy is to start small but be persistent with digital conversion in the classrooms. Some early adopters will delve into advance methods such as Blended Learning models, or Project Based Learning models, and that is okay. Remember this: we are all heading to California, but we will get there at different times and through various means. Year one is for experimentation, experimentation, experimentation! Checkout a tentative list of planned professional developments for 2014: [PD Schedule for 2014](#)

**Am I being evaluated on the use of technology in my classes?**

Yes. You are expected to use the laptops with your students "everyday but not all the time". Our target is that you use the laptops with your students at least for 5 minutes every day. It is understandable that some days this may not happen, but plan on using the laptops daily. You may use the laptops for warm-ups and exit tickets using the HUB or Web 2.0 Cool Tools. Your kids will love you for it.

**Do students have access to printers? How will the setup work?**

Students do not yet have access to printers. Encourage students to share digital files with their teachers. Students may print important documents in the library or at the Go Center.

**Do we have model classrooms for tech integration?**

Our teacher leaders will help us identify model classrooms for each content area and we will share them through links and professional development activities

**Who are the teacher leaders for the content areas? What role will they play?**

The initial teacher leaders will be identified during the pre-service professional development during the week of August 11. Our teacher leaders will receive extensive support from the Instructional Technology department. They will learn about best practices in tech deployment in education, Project-Based Learning (PBL) strategies, and setting up a Blended Learning environment in and out of a regular classroom.

**Are the laptops secure and safe at school and at home?**

The laptops are fitted with HISD installed filters. The filters work at school and at home. The laptops also have CompuTrace program installed, to deter theft and loss. But the best deterrence is knowledge. We have to do a great job teaching our students about device care and digital citizenship.

**Are students allowed to download and install programs on the laptops?**

No, they are not allowed to install programs or games on the laptops. However, the laptops will come with a Kiosk feature that has pre-loaded programs for students to use. Teachers can request for specific software to be added to the Kiosk, should that become necessary.

**Will One Drive / Sky Drive be ready for student to use, come September?**

Yes. The One Drive / Sky Drive features of Office 365 will be ready.

Is there a standard set of rules in regard to student laptop usage, behavior in class, and content access?

Yes. It will be shared during the pre-service professional development. We use the Interval Plan and the Behavior Action Plan.

Who deals with a reported lost or stolen laptops on or off campus?

On campus, report the matter to Mr. Mata and get a police report from our law enforcement officers. Fill out a detailed incident report with The Lee HS Help Desk in room 206. Off campus, lost or stolen laptops need to be reported to the City Police Department. A police report is required ASAP. Give Mr. Sacko/Gonzales a copy of the police report and fill out a detailed incident report in room 206.

Is it true that HISD IT can access and remotely monitor my computer?

Yes, HISD IT department can access and remotely monitor Power Up Laptops. They are the property of HISD, after all. This is not a common practice, however. It is only implemented when a situation warrants it.

\$25 laptop usage fee, is this an insurance premium against damage, theft, or lost?

The \$25 is not an insurance premium. It is a technology usage fee for the duration of one academic year. HISD has a separate insurance policy that covers all laptops distributed to students and teachers.

My parents can't afford to pay the \$25 laptop fee, is there a way for a student in that situation to still get a laptop?

Contact student's AP for other options. We want all kids to benefit from the Power Up Initiatives. The admin staff will find a way to make sure all students have access to laptops for daily use.

I have more questions, who do I address them to?

Please email Mr. Sacko or Mr. Gonzales with your questions.