Education Task Force (en)

Reasons to prefer Free Software for your child's education

When you send your child to school, you expect that she/he comes back with a certain knowledge basis, a certain social behavior. Knowledge is universal, Free Software too. Social behavior implicates values and philosophy, Free Software too. By implementing Free Software in schools, we could reach a more effective educative system.

Sharing

Using Free Software allows your child learn to share and cooperate and thus join a whole community that shares knowledge.

Independence

Teaching a child to rely on proprietary software makes him dependent on something s/he'll have to pay for. Teaching him/her to rely on Free Software, the child can continue using this software in his/her adult life while helping others by sharing it.

Learning to program

The possibility to tinker motivates children to learn more. Free Software allows to learn about computer at any depth.

Learning to use software

Free Software give children the possibility to learn how software works and thus to understand the concepts underlying a whole category or type of software. They are then able to adapt to any environment, a key skill nowadays.

Learning in native language

Free Software applications are being translated into almost any language. Thus your child can learn and focus on the actual subject without any language or cultural barriers

Equality at home

With Free Software, teachers can give a copy to each child, without risking to mislead him/her to use an illegal copy. Thus you are not put in a position to make a financial decision and children of families with less financial resources can learn with the same tools as every other child.

Intelligent use of the school's money

Without licence fees, the school saves money and can use it to train the teachers or for technical support to disburden the teachers, and thereby improve the quality of teaching.

Intelligent savings on hardware

Free Software can be used with minimal hardware requirements on almost any hardware. Using and teaching Free Software also allows the school to save money on the purchases of computers and updates, and thereby reinvest it rather on grey matter.

Stability and Reliability

Free Software is stable, secure and reliable. Security and other updates can be implemented in a minute. Its maintenance is automated and thus time-saving.

Security

Free Software is impervious to current viruses.