

## ***Reasons for schools to use Free Software***

**Access to software determines who may participate in a digital society. The freedoms to use, study, share, and improve software allow everyone to participate on an equal basis. There are many reasons to use Free Software in general. Here, we have collected some that are particularly important for schools:**

### ***Sharing***

Using Free Software allows schools to teach children to share and cooperate and thus join a whole community that shares knowledge.

### ***Equality at home***

With Free Software, teachers can give a copy of a program to each student. Thus, children of families with few financial resources can learn with the same tools as every other child.

### ***Learning to program***

The possibility to tinker motivates children to learn more. Free Software allows them to understand computers in depth.

### ***Learning to use software***

Free Software permits children 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 can be translated into any language. Thus each child can learn and focus on the actual subject without any language or cultural barriers.

### ***Independence***

Teaching children to rely on proprietary software makes them dependent on a software vendor. Teaching them to rely on Free Software allows them to continue using this software in their adult life while helping others by sharing it. Using and teaching Free Software also makes the school itself independent from software companies.

### ***Slash your hardware costs***

Free Software doesn't require powerful hardware and runs on almost any computer. It can give new life to old computers, saving both money and the environment.

### ***Forget your licenses costs***

Without licence fees, the school saves money and can use it to train teachers, or for technical support to make life easier for teachers.

### ***Don't worry about your licenses***

With Free Software, there are no worries about expiry dates or costs of the licenses. Free Software stays free in every sense. All students have access to perfectly legal copies.

### ***Administer easily***

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

