

# Teachers give students coding superpowers with Replit

Get started

## Why we need coding superpowers

In the next decade, there will be a million more programming jobs than computer science (CS) graduates to fill them. At the same time, too many students (especially low income people of color) lack equitable access to high quality CS education. The economic opportunity is huge, but unless some things change, not everyone will get their fair chance.

Moreover, the educational system, which should be “the great equalizer,” is struggling to incorporate CS instruction. Teachers and education leaders consistently tell us that they wish their schools would prioritize CS education more and introduce it to students at an earlier age.

At Replit, we believe deeply in the equalizing and empowering potential of computer programming. Beginners shouldn't have to spend hours fighting their machines just to write “Hello World.” It's no wonder so many give up before discovering the creative joy of coding. Young visionaries, wherever they come from, deserve better access to technology.

We want to give everyone the tools and community they need to succeed. The kids need coding superpowers!

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## Superpowers in the classroom

In most traditional CS classes, students code in a school media lab with bulky desktops. At the end of class, they copy their code onto flash drives to keep working at home, if they even have a personal computer. And every time the teacher has to install software updates, they have to wait for IT approval.

In a CS class using Replit, students code on everything from a Chromebook to an iPad. They collaborate with Replit's multiplayer feature, just like they do on Google Docs. And at the end of class, Replit saves everyone's work and updates any necessary packages automatically. Simply put, Replit just works, so you can focus on teaching. Here are a few more reasons why teachers tell us they love Replit.



"My students are doing stuff for fun. They spend way more time on a project now than they would in the past."

Melissa Schaeffer (High School CS teacher in Pennsylvania)

## Fun for students

Teachers can't stop telling us how much their students love Replit.



"Students definitely like getting feedback right away. They don't have to worry about pasting links in Google Classroom or emailing code. They can see all the things in one place, instead of checking between their email, the classroom, and the local IDE."

Sarah Strong (High School CS teacher in Canada)



"One kid originally said, 'I'm not a programmer.' But when he figured out how to write his name with a turtle, he was showing everybody! As a teacher, I was like, 'Yes, that's great!'"

Jenn Demers (K12 CS teacher in Tennessee)

Anyone can code once they see how fun and creative it can be. Replit makes it easier for teachers to light that spark for their students!

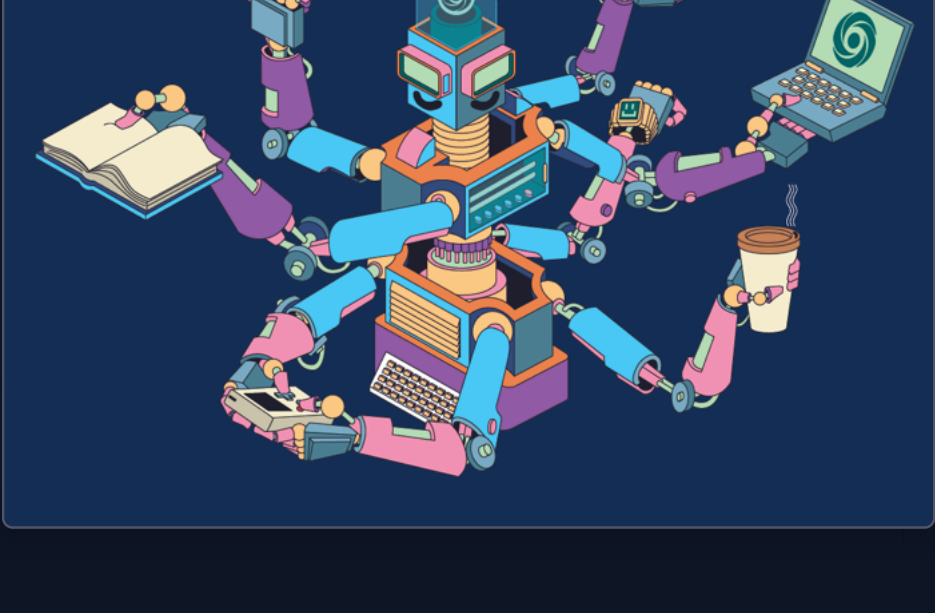
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## Easy setup

Joseph Fall (college CS professor at Capilano University) explained that setting up a programming environment on a computer is hard, looks different on different computers, and students “can actually screw up their system.” You often lose students before you've even started teaching. But with Replit, “within 10 minutes of the first class, students can get their hands on code and start messing around with it.”

Dave Dwyer told us that before Replit, “your first day and a half was getting students to figure out the software.” But with Replit, “the setup time is about nothing...by the time I've explained the instructions, half the kids are ready.”

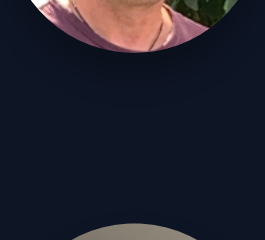
We firmly believe that no first-time CS student should have to to spend their first class aimlessly following instructions and not even getting to code!



[Learn more >\\_](#)

## Code on any device

Because everything's online, any student can code with Replit on any modern device.



"Not everyone has the funds to purchase a laptop. So to create that sense of equality, that everyone has an opportunity, that's where the Replit program has been really beneficial."

Shane McReavey



"I don't know what I would have done this year without Replit. This has leveled the playing field."

Beth Stoudt

In districts like Melissa Schaeffer's (with a 1-to-1 Chromebook program) or Dana Deutch's where students can't install programming software at home, Replit works perfectly. Another teacher, Jenn Demers, took advantage of this newfound portability by asking kids to get feedback from their families at home, noting “the ability to do that and know that...no kid is at a disadvantage, is really awesome as a teacher!”

And Chromebooks aren't the only device that students are coding on. Jenn Demers said, “I have a bunch of students who only have iPads who are interested in coding, but their parents aren't ready to commit to buy them a computer.” About 55% of her students are coding on iPads. Another high school teacher, Trevor Lane, even has a couple of students using cell phones to develop programs.

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"I can concentrate on giving more time to working with the children and helping them rather than housekeeping stuff."

Daren Craddock (secondary school CS teacher in the UK)

## Efficient feedback

With Replit Teams for Education's efficient feedback tools like Google Docs-style conversations right on the code and unit-test and input-output-test based autograding, teachers spend more time teaching.



"My students like getting feedback right away instead of checking between their email, the classroom, and the local IDE."

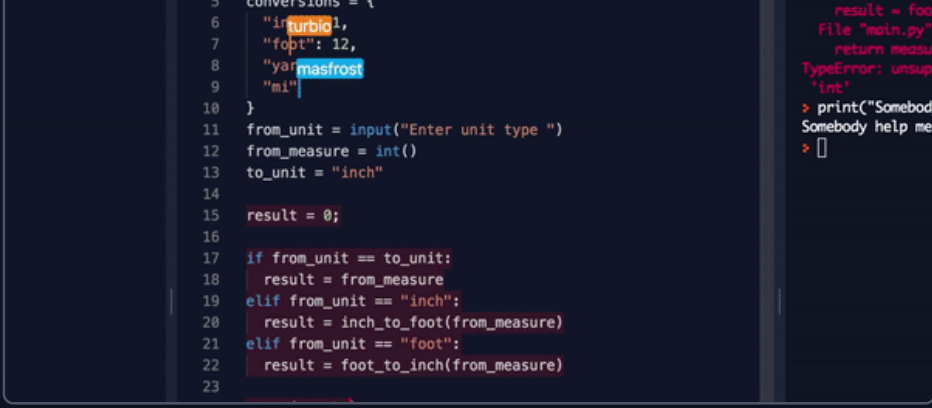
Sarah Strong

Many teachers told us their complex grading workflows before switching to Replit. They described elaborate exchanges of papers, USBs, and emails, tediously downloading files to test them locally. Beth Stoudt shared that she even had to drive back to school half an hour away to sit on a bench outside the school building just to get on the network so she could download student work to review.

And the benefits of Replit go beyond just saving time. Melissa Schaeffer called Replit's autograding a “godsend.” She was able to cover an extra month of material, bring in guest speakers, and add Python to the curriculum, which students were begging for. She also saw fewer cheating incidents because students could test their work and keep working at home, and she could review the code history.

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## Multiplayer collaboration



Using Replit multiplayer, students can easily collaborate in real-time. They'll learn real-world professional skills like pair programming and peer mentorship. Joseph Fall even noticed that students who use multiplayer tend to do better in his classes.



"Multiplayer is a killer feature. Now I can say, *give me a link* and I diagnose their problem for just a couple minutes and the class has learned something and that student is not stuck. It's absolutely just killer. It's not reproducible in any other environment that I'm aware of."

Joseph Fall (college professor)

Multiplayer also gives shy students a discreet way to ask for help. Ruth Page explained that in her classroom, “some of my kids don't really like for the other students to know that they're struggling and so they'll send me a quick message in the chat.” She can then jump in and get them unstuck, and the students don't fall behind.

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## Approachability for teachers without a CS background

As more and more schools are requiring computer science, there's a lack of teachers with formal computer science training. These courageous teachers, Beth Stoudt explains, “have learned everything on the go.”

Shane McReavey taught Social Studies until last year. Some of his peers struggled to teach Computer Science the old way with Eclipse and other downloadable programs. He told us, “I never had to go through that frustration at all to begin with. I probably wouldn't be volunteering to do computer science if that was the case.” And Dave Dwyer, who used to teach History, said “I found Replit intuitive, fun, and very user friendly.”

In addition to the ease-of-use of the Replit tools, the Replit team and other teachers in the community are always there to help. McReavey said, “I can't say enough about the people I've had contact with.” Tenaz Purdy has been active on the Replit education Facebook group that brings teachers and Replit staff together, and said, it's “like real time Help Desk support, they've been very receptive to new ideas.”



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## Taking coding beyond the classroom

Building upon what they learned in class, many young coders use Replit to keep building things with friends from school or from the Replit community. We've seen side projects, startup businesses, tutorials, games, online competitions, and more.

Many of these students join the friendly and inclusive Replit Discord server with around 10,000 young coders from all over the world. 60% come from outside the US! While about half of the community first started using Replit in school, many others don't have access to formal CS education.

Nathan, one of our community managers, knows many kids who joined the Discord after seeing their first programming tutorial on YouTube. A lot of these new coders come to make Discord bots on their iPhones and stick around when they realize how much they can do. They'll start posing questions on the Discord, and more experienced programmers quickly answer. It's a virtuous cycle of learning and teaching!

One of these young coders is [Lily Khan](#), a teenager from India, who was intimidated by programming before finding Replit. When she was just starting out on her coding journey, she stumbled onto the Replit Discord. She quickly made friends, learned and helped teach others, and before long had even won a coding competition! Lily said finding the community was “likely one of the best days of my life.” You can read the whole story on her blog.

Plus, check out some more of these amazing projects built by young coders on Replit!

[Coding Minecraft instead of just playing it >\\_](#)

[Customizing the look of the Replit website >\\_](#)

[Developing an app to manage laundry, events, COVID-19 tracking and more for their university >\\_](#)

[Iterating on the minimum viable product \(MVP\) for their startup while learning how to code >\\_](#)

Imagine all the incredible things your students will create with their coding superpowers!

Get started

legal		replit	features	handy links	social media
terms and services		blog	IDE	create a repl	facebook
privacy		about	multiplayer	docs	twitter
subprocessors		careers	community	feedback	instagram
DPA		teams for education	teams	status page	discord
US student DPA		pricing	hosting	python packages	
student privacy				import from glitch	
languages					
Clojure	Unlambd	JavaScript	Swift	Dart	SQLite
Haskell	CoffeeScript	Deno (beta)	Python (with Turtle)	Reason Node.js	Java
Kotlin	Scheme	Golang	Basic (beta)	Tcl	PHP CLI
QBasic	APL	C++	R	Erlang	Pyxel
Forth	Lua	C	Bash	TypeScript	Raku
LOLCODE	Ruby	C#	Crystal	Pygame	Scala (beta)
BrainF	Roy	F#	Julia	Love2D	Nix (beta)
Emoticon	Python	HTML, CSS, JS	Elixir	Emacs Lisp (Elisp)	
Bloop	Node.js	Rust	Nim	PHP Web Server	