

# BUYER'S **guide**

## Netbooks

**N**etbooks, tiny laptops with 7- to 13-inch screens designed specifically for surfing the Internet, are becoming all the rage. And though many users scoff at their obvious limitations, including cramped keyboards, small screens, and a lack of storage and memory, no one complains about the price. Netbooks were selling for less than \$400 in the fall and were expected to dip to the \$250 range by Christmas. At that price, you hardly have to concern yourself with locking them in the hotel safe. The price also makes them a great ed tech tool.

In fact, several netbooks on the market today were designed specifically with schools in mind. Built-in antennae allow wireless Internet access. Many models use solid-state drives instead of bulkier and more destructible hard drives. They are tough, portable, small enough to stash in a purse, and lighter than most textbooks. Plus, they boot up fast.

Lenovo is coming out with a netbook for schools similar to its IdeaPad S10 for general consumers. Lenovo's "e" netbooks, the S9e and the S10e, are sold exclusively to schools and can be packaged with educational software such as Vital Source Technologies and Adobe Digital School Collection. Students can connect wired or wirelessly through Ethernet, WiFi3, and optional Bluetooth. Outfitted with a standard ExpressCard 34 slot, the netbooks can also be enabled for mobile broadband3.

Intel's Classmate is marketed to students as well. Looking more like a sturdy small suitcase than a sleek laptop, the Classmate comes encased in a hard plastic shell with its own handle. With a water-resistant keyboard, it is designed with kids in mind.

Many reviewers are grouching about netbooks' diminutive size. Pecking away on a small, weirdly organized keyboard and squinting at a 7-inch screen may seem ridiculous to some users. But netbooks aren't supposed to be the primary family computer, and they are not meant for playing World of Warcraft or for downloading huge files.

For schools struggling to teach 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills while facing shrinking budgets, netbooks just might be the way to put every child in front of a computer without breaking the bank.

Brand	Model	Screen size	Price
<b>Acer</b> <a href="http://www.acer.us/aspireone">www.acer.us/aspireone</a>	 Aspire One LU.S020A.012	8.9"	\$322
<b>Asus</b> <a href="http://eeepc.asus.com/">http://eeepc.asus.com/</a>	 Eee PC EEEPC900-W047	8.9"	\$330
<b>CTL</b> <a href="http://www.ctlcorp.com/v2/shop/default.aspx">www.ctlcorp.com/v2/shop/default.aspx</a>	 IL1	7"	\$399
<b>Dell</b> <a href="http://www.dell.com/">http://www.dell.com/</a>	 Inspiron Mini 9 DNCWXA1	8.9"	\$349
<b>Everex</b> <a href="http://www.everex.com/products/products.htm">www.everex.com/products/products.htm</a>	 Cloudbook CE1200V	7"	\$300
<b>HP</b> <a href="http://www.hp.com/">http://www.hp.com/</a>	 2133 Mini Note KX870AT	8.9"	\$641
<b>Intel</b> <a href="http://www.intel.com/intel/worldahead/classmatepc/">http://www.intel.com/intel/worldahead/classmatepc/</a>	 Classmate 2goPC 2GPCE09XPB	9"	\$399
<b>Lenovo</b> <a href="http://www.lenovo.com/us/en/">http://www.lenovo.com/us/en/</a>	 IdeaPad S10 1208U	10.2"	\$430
<b>MSI</b> <a href="http://www.msimobile.com/nblist.aspx?screen=10.0">http://www.msimobile.com/nblist.aspx?screen=10.0</a>	 Wind U100-016US	10"	\$449
<b>Sylvania</b> <a href="http://www.sylvaniacomputers.com/">www.sylvaniacomputers.com/</a>	 GNet 13001	8.9"	\$295

Dimensions and Weight	Processor	Storage	Battery	Operating System	RAM
9.8" × 6.7" × 1.14" 25cm × 17cm × 3.5cm 2.17 lb./1 kg.	Intel Atom	8 GB SSD	3 hours, 3 cell	Linpus Linux Lite	512 MB
8.9" × 6.7" × 1.33" 22.6cm × 17cm × 3.4cm 2.2 lb./1 kg.	Intel Atom	16 GB SSD	3.5 hours, 4 cell	Linux	1 GB
9.6" × 1.7" × 6.8" 24.4cm × 17.3cm × 4.3cm 2.7 lb./1.22 kg.	Via C7-M ULV	4 GB SSD	4.5 hours, 4 cell	XP Home	1GB
9.2" × 6.8" × 1.3" 23.4cm × 17.3cm × 3.3cm 2.28 lb./1.03 kg.	Intel Atom	4 GB SSD	4 cell	Ubuntu 8.04 Linux	1 GB
10.23" × 7.08" × 1.24" 26cm × 18cm × 3.15cm 2.3 lb./1.04 kg.	VIA C7-M ULV	30 GB HDD	4 cell	Linux	512 MB
10" × 6.5" × 1" 25.4cm × 16.5cm × 2.5cm 2.8 lb./1.03 kg.	VIA C7-M ULV	120 GB HDD	4.5 hours, 6 cell	Vista Business	2 GB
8.7" × 7.3" × 1.5" 22.1cm × 18.54cm × 3.51cm 3 lb./1.36 kg.	Intel Celeron	40 GB HDD	3 hours, 4 cell	Linux	512 MB
9.9" × 7.3" × 1" 25cm × 18.5cm × 2.5cm 2.76 lb./1.03 kg.	Intel Atom	80 GB HDD	3 cell	Linux	512 MB
10.23" × 7.08" × 1.24" 26cm × 18cm × 3.15cm 2.3 lb./1.04 kg.	Intel Atom	120 GB HDD	3 cell	XP Home	1 GB
9.1" × 6.8" × 1.2" 23.1cm × 17cm × 3cm 1.87 lb./0.08 kg.	VIA C3	30 GB HDD	N/A	Linux-based gOS	1 GB