# Twitter for Teachers

Twitter is a real-time social network that helps users share, follow and interact with stories, opinions, links, pictures and videos in 140-character messages.

## How to Get Started

### Tweet
At the heart of Twitter are small bursts of information called tweets. Each tweet is 140 characters long — but don’t let the small size fool you; you can discover a lot in a little space! You can see photos, videos and conversations from tweets to get the whole story at a glance — and all in one place!

### Twitter Handle
A user’s Twitter handle is the username they have selected and the accompanying URL, like so: www.twitter.com/username
Click here to sign up for your Twitter handle.

### @Reply
An @reply is a method of publicly responding to another Twitter user. By placing @ before the person’s username, your message will be publicly directed to that person.

### #Hashtag?
The # symbol, also called a hashtag, is used to categorize tweets for reference and to facilitate conversations on specific subjects.

### Who is on Twitter?
Twitter is filled with teachers, administrators, educational technology experts, students, parents and education companies. Start connecting by following them or @replying to them.

### Twitter Applications
There are many ways you can send tweets. Some popular applications include:

- [TweetDeck](https://tweetdeck.twitter.com)
- [HootSuite](https://hootsuite.com)
- [Echokan](https://echokan.com)

## Twitter and Education

### Teach with Twitter
Use Twitter to make announcements, give and receive instant feedback, ask and answer questions, and much more. Click here to learn more about using Twitter while teaching.

### Education Policy
Looking to use Twitter to stay up on education policy? Follow these Twitter handles to get started, then do some research to find your local news sources:

- @DianeRavitch @MLRhee
- @EducationWeek @USEdGov @HuffPostEd @EducationNext
- @EduTools @TeachDedCom

### #EdChat
#EdChat is a Twitter conversation that takes place on Tuesdays at noon and 7 P.M. EST. It covers all subjects related to K-12 education, and specific topics are polled each week. Follow these members of the #EdChat team:

- @Web20Classroom @TomWhitby
- @ShelTerrell @RLLinBerr @MFEducation
- @KyliePace @CybraryMnt @BlairTeach
- @Svistak @EdTechSteve

### Popular Hashtags
Want to discuss a specific aspect of education? Use hashtags to connect with the particular group having that discussion! A few popular hashtags include:

- #ElemChat #ArtEd #GTchat (gifted talented)
- #OPChat (connected Principals) #HigherEd
- #NTChat (new teacher) #EdReform

### Education Chats
Looking to use Twitter to connect with fellow teachers, administrators and organizations? Education chats allow you to gain insight through collaboration with educators around the world! Check out these chats to start:

- #EdChat #UnChat #SSChat (social studies)
- #ELChat (English language teachers)
- #PTChat (parent-teacher chat) #EngChat

### #EdTech
Interested in connecting with the experts and companies leading the future of educational technology? Get involved in these conversations:

#EdTech #Elearning #EdApp
#VitaCPD (professional development)