

Mr. Elon Musk
Co-Chair, Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)
xAI, 3016 2nd Street SW, Huntsville, AL 35805

Dear Mr. Musk,

Your companies' teams prioritize Linux for its cost-efficiency, flexibility, and performance in data centers, AI training, and development environments across Tesla, xAI, and SpaceX. While real-time systems may use specialized OSes, Linux's dominance in your tech stack underscores its value. I urge DOGE to apply this proven approach to public education by replacing wasteful Windows systems with decommissioned rugged laptops running Linux, slashing costs, curbing tampering and saving taxpayers millions.

Windows saddles schools with \$100-\$150 per device in annual licensing fees for Windows and Office. A 10,000-student district spends \$1 million yearly, plus antivirus and IT costs for constant vulnerabilities. Fragile Windows laptops (\$500-\$1,000 each) break easily, inflating replacement budgets. Conversely, rugged laptops from military or police surplus (\$200 each) are tamper-resistant, cutting repair costs. Equipping 10,000 students saves \$3 million upfront, and Linux's free ecosystem—featuring LibreOffice for writing papers and DaVinci Resolve for professional editing eliminates expensive licensing fees entirely. There are distributions built for education from primary school to high education. Some encourage learning through gaming.

Your companies thrive on Linux's reliability and flexibility. Schools can too, using curated Linux distros to limit distractions and foster coding and creativity, unlike Windows' bloated, restrictive and privacy invasive setup. Let schools, guided by teacher feedback, select distros and configurations, reserving Windows and OS/X for niche classes like Adobe-based design. A DOGE pilot program could showcase these savings, redirecting funds to remove burden on teachers with essential school supplies and to a larger extent: taxpayer savings.

Sincerely,

Jason Page
Laptop Ministry Founder
LaptopMinistry.org