

# Unlocking collaboration in higher education



# Table of contents

- Intro**
  - The role of collaboration in higher education . . . . . 3
  
- Chapter 1**
  - Advanced security for IT admins. . . . . 5
  
- Chapter 2**
  - Seamless integration with existing tools . . . . . 7
  
- Chapter 3**
  - Best-in-class sync for sharing large files. . . . . 10
  
- Chapter 4**
  - Seamless sharing across the research landscape . . . . . 13
  
- Conclusion**
  - Powering collaboration on campus and beyond . . . . . 16

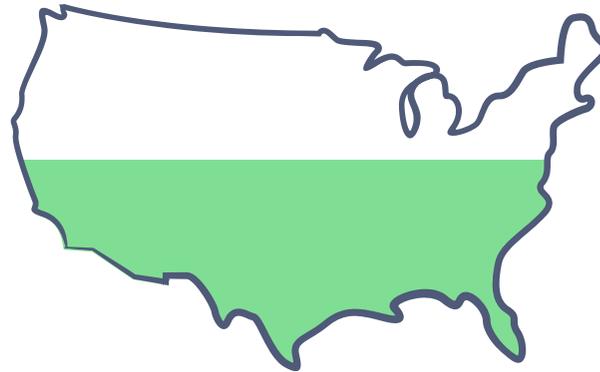
# Intro

## The role of collaboration in higher education

Collaboration and knowledge sharing are pillars of education. Instead of working in silos detached from other educational spaces, universities can leverage technology to break down barriers. This creates opportunities to drive efficiency, productivity, and innovation in higher education and research.

When working together is seamless, your impact and reach can expand from the local level to a national and global scale. Collaboration within a university as well as across campuses and other institutions has three key benefits:

- 1 Increases faculty and student engagement
- 2 Fuels research and innovation
- 3 Improves academics and rankings



**56%** of our nation's basic research is being conducted at universities, according to Best College Reviews.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, studies show that students who engage in research are twice as likely to graduate, five times more likely to go on to graduate school, and have more successful careers after graduation.

# Global impact

Dropbox Education elevates collaboration by addressing the unique needs of university IT teams, administrators, professors, and researchers. By connecting universities across the globe, Dropbox Education facilitates cross-campus research and helps drive innovation.



6,000+ global universities



94,000+ shared folder invites every week



64% growth in university users in the last three years



80 universities with 10,000+ users

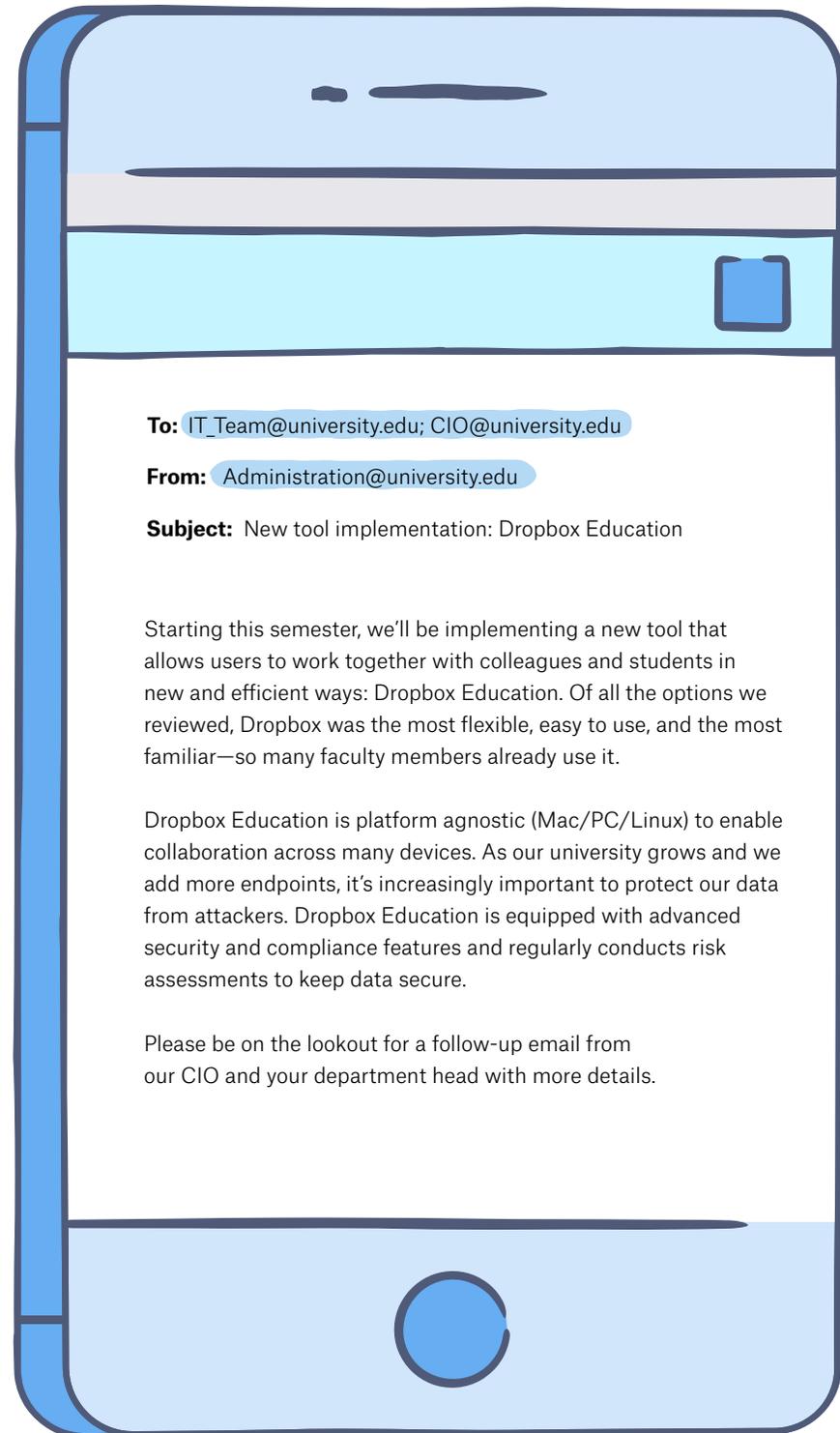
This eBook explores the capabilities and features of Dropbox Education. It provides real-world tips on how universities can leverage this platform to supercharge their existing workflows, while boosting productivity and enhancing security.

1

## Advanced security for IT admins

University IT teams have information security high on their list of priorities but need executive-level buy-in and approval to deploy secure networks, systems, and applications. As more virtual touch-points for files are added to university workflows, your data may be at risk.

IT needs the control and visibility to manage data campus wide. With enhanced security and compliance capabilities, Dropbox Education helps IT manage users, monitor access, and keep data safe.



## Visibility, control, and advanced security

Dropbox Education is designed with multiple layers of protection to secure your data. We also have a network of best-of-breed partners to help you secure your ecosystem and get the most out of Dropbox. Get access to solutions across data protection, identity management, and more.

## Trust and compliance

Compliance is vital in any university collaboration setting.

Dropbox Education supports the most widely accepted standards and regulations including:

• FERPA • HIPAA • HITECH • ISO 27001 • ISO 27018

**“The dashboard is fantastic—we can see any usage that may be out of the norm. And with Dropbox’s encryption and compliance standards, we feel very safe putting our important files on the platform.”**

—Paul Kang, Assistant Director of Infrastructure at Chapman University



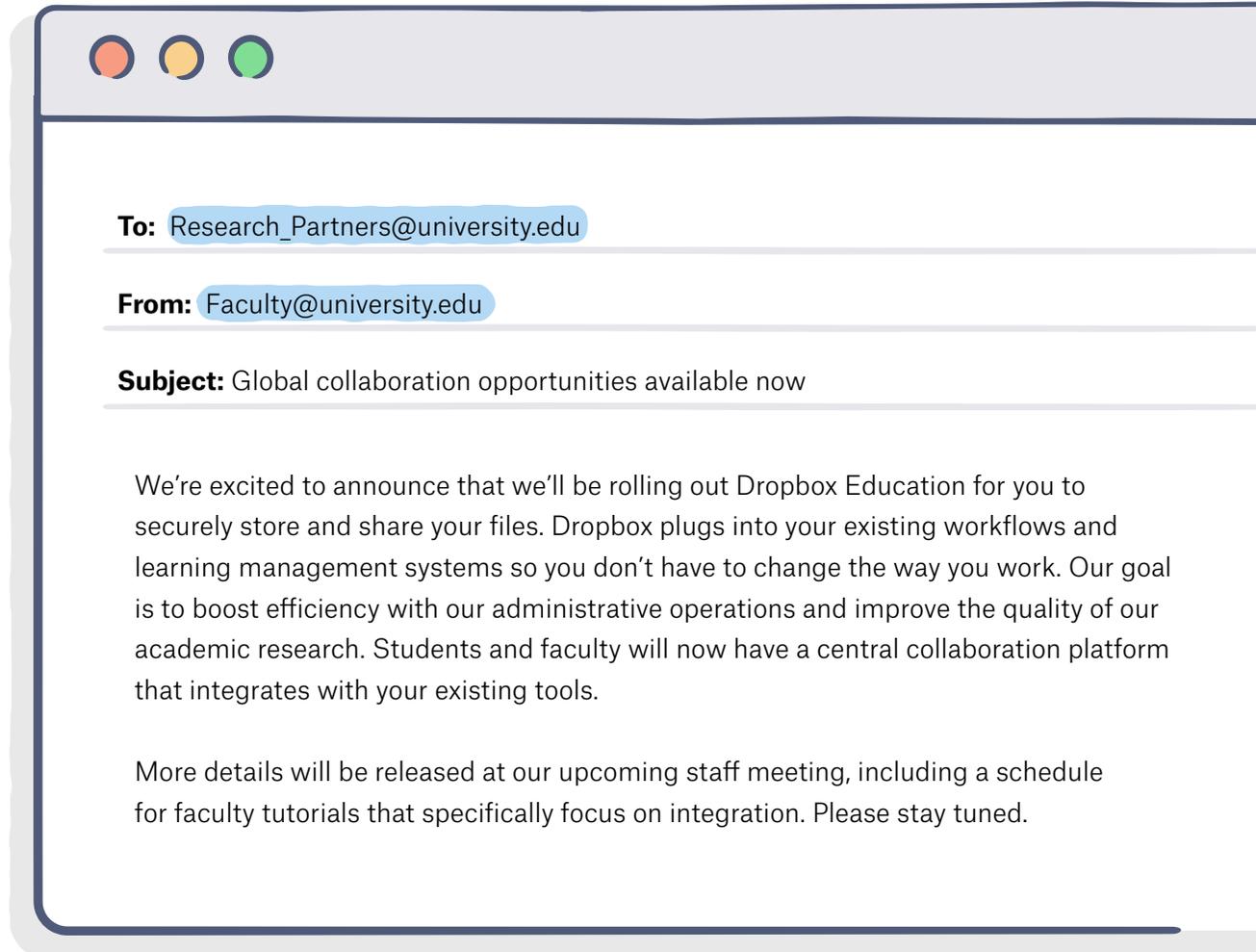
### Tip

Manage two-step verification via your admin console. Here you can see who has enabled two-step verification, review which users are pending, and send reminders to those who haven’t started the process.

# 2

## Increased productivity for faculty and staff

Working at a university involves using a variety of platforms, devices, and apps for students and faculty to complete projects efficiently. But, using a variety of tools can make collaboration tricky, leading to headaches, frustration, and lost time. When professors, researchers, and students harness the right tools to seamlessly share files and ideas, everyone benefits, and their workflows become more streamlined.



“[T]he Office 365 and Dropbox integration has enabled us to save valuable time accessing and collaborating on Office files.”

—Rob Smith, Director of Systems and Networks at Davidson College

As you collaborate with researchers, colleagues, or students, you don't want anything to slow you down or deter participation. Dropbox Education addresses these issues, offering one platform for collaboration—making integration simple from virtually any device. Connect the apps you use every day, like **Office 365, Blackboard, Canvas, Turnitin, and Notability**. Dropbox Education seamlessly integrates with tools you already use, which simplifies access for everyone. With cross-device sync, you can work on files of any size or type, from research papers to large data sets, from any device both on or offline.

The top five most commonly edited file types in university shared folders are:



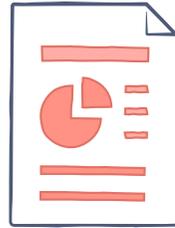
Word



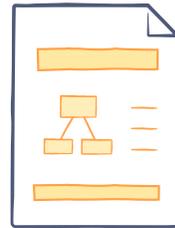
LaTeX



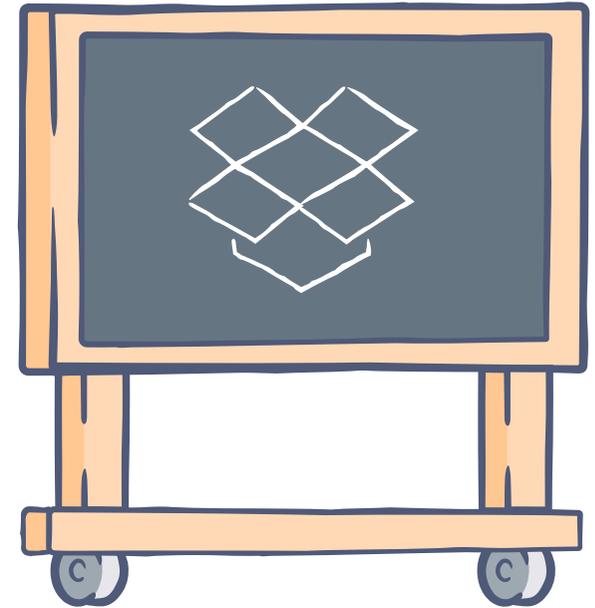
Text



PDF



Excel



### Tip

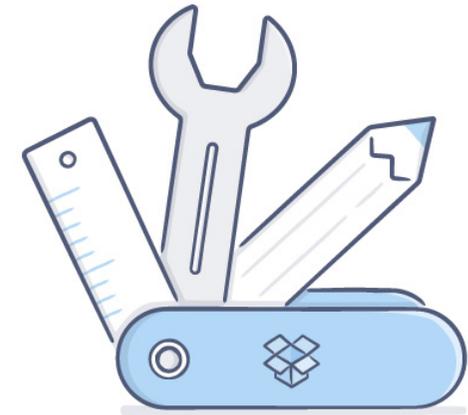
To add Dropbox Education content into Blackboard Learn, use the mashup functionality within the visual text box editor. The “Browse Dropbox” button within Blackboard Learn allows students to upload assignments directly from Dropbox.

## Dropbox Education + Blackboard Learn

**Gain direct access to content from Blackboard Learn.** Blackboard Learn users can quickly and simply embed links to their Dropbox content, saving valuable time and allowing users to manage their content in one central place.

**Upload assignments directly into Blackboard Learn.** From the Blackboard Learn interface, learners are able to upload an assignment directly from Dropbox Education.

**Seamless integration from Blackboard Learn.** Users authenticate to Dropbox Education directly from the Blackboard Learn interface.



## Dropbox Education + Office 365

**Access, edit, and share Office docs.** With co-authoring capabilities, teams can co-edit Excel, PowerPoint, and Word files in real time.

**Increase faculty and staff productivity.** Easily edit Microsoft Office files stored in Dropbox directly from the web or on a mobile device with the support of best-in-class syncing.

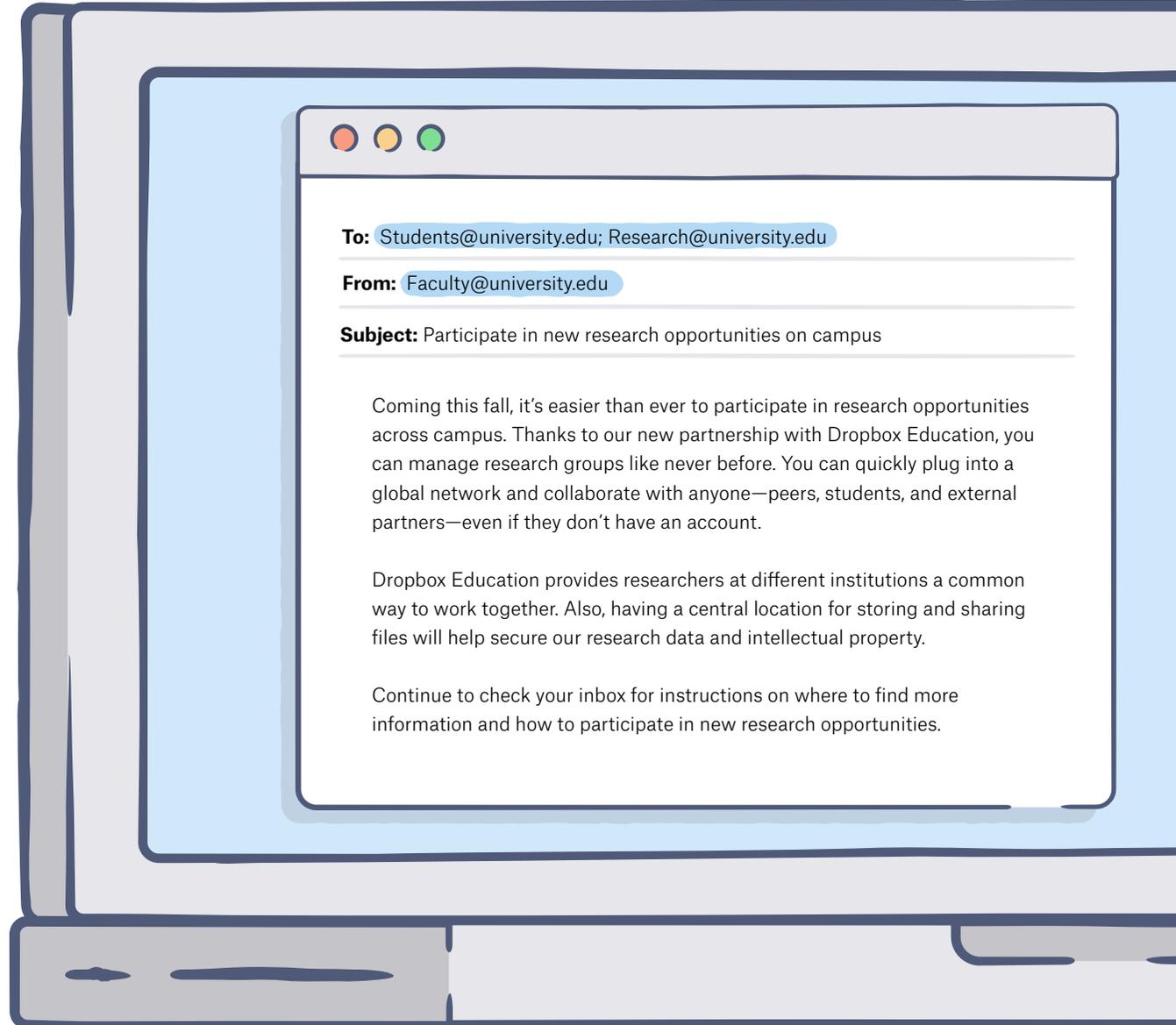
**Simplify collaboration.** Co-edit Office files in real time and update them to the latest version with just one click. See which faculty/staff have opened and worked on the file and when.

**Improve ROI through adoption.** Provide your teams with the tools they love with no training required, high adoption rates, and better control over company data.

# 3

## Best-in-class sync for sharing large files

University faculty are increasingly looking to their peers for subject-matter expertise and access to resources. Sharing large databases and research files can be a lengthy process though. Dropbox Education accelerates research by simplifying sharing within and across campus. And with the NET+ program, universities can enjoy faster speeds with direct peering from Internet2 into Dropbox and Amazon Web Services.

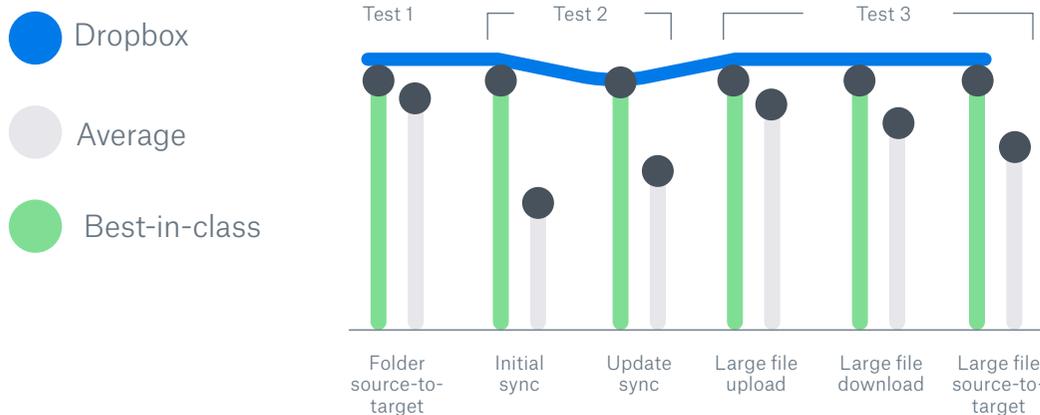


## Sync or swim

Davidson College decided to deploy Dropbox Education after they did a “sync or swim” test. Of four solutions, Dropbox was the only one to complete uploading a 112 GB file set—this included 13 folders containing over 70,000 files of varying sizes on Mac and Windows.

Davidson IT is now realizing major cost savings—they’re replacing their storage area network (SAN), which cost about \$500,000, with a combination of Dropbox Education and VMware-optimized solid-state storage. Between the two, they’re now looking at half the previous spend.

## Dropbox sync performance<sup>2</sup>



“Our in-house sync test proved that Dropbox was the fastest at syncing files—faster than Box, Google Drive, or Microsoft OneDrive, which weren’t even able to complete the file upload. The results made me realize we could justify paying for a solution that definitely works, versus going with a free or lower-cost solution.”

—Rob Smith, Director of Systems and Networks at Davidson College

## Fast and secure sharing

**Universities are twice as likely to share 10+ GB files than other organizations.** And fast, efficient sync technology makes sharing large files easy on Dropbox.



Track how data is shared with individuals inside and outside your organization through in-depth audit logs.



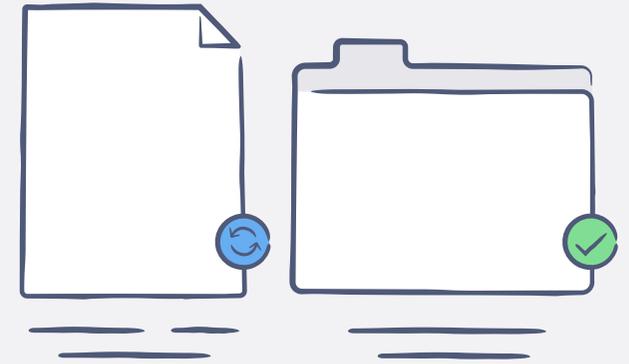
Protect your shared files with passwords and expiration dates.



Keep your team in sync with the most up-to-date versions of files by storing them in the cloud instead of local drives or department shares.

**“Offering faculty and staff a centralized and easy-to-access data storage service can greatly enhance the security of research data and intellectual property.”**

—Rachel Moorehead, Senior IT Support  
Manager at Georgia Institute of Technology



### Tip

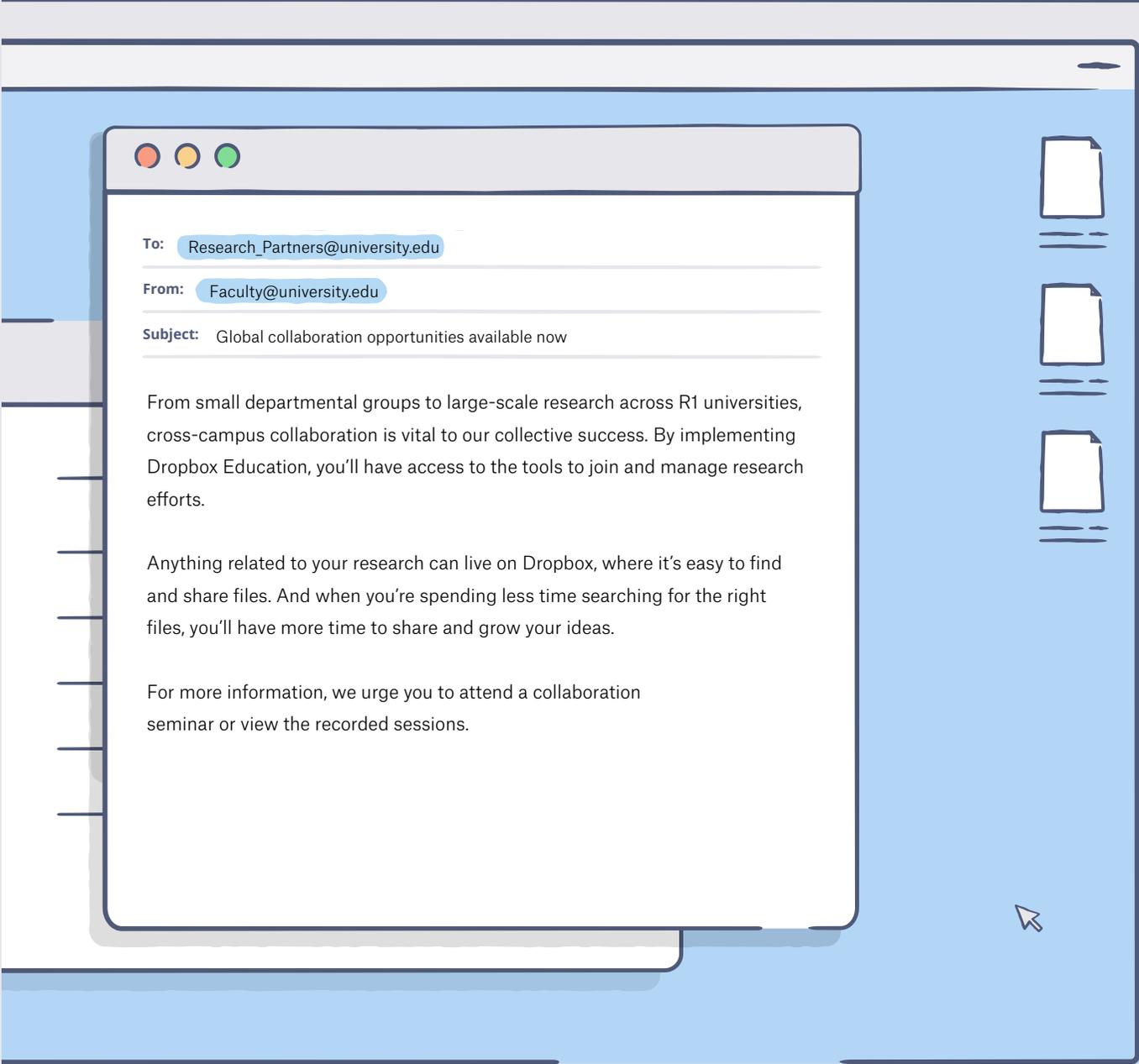
With Smart Sync, see all your files and team folders on your desktop without using hard disk space until you need them. Smart Sync works seamlessly on Windows and Mac and comes integrated with Dropbox Education.

# 4

## Seamless sharing across the research landscape

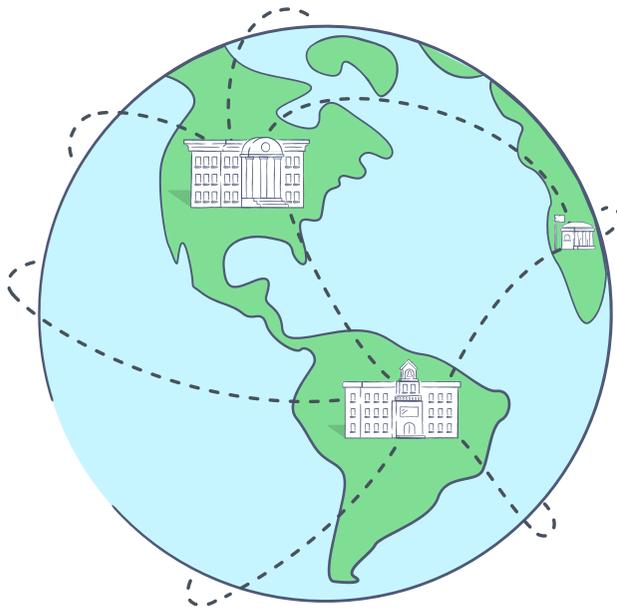
Researchers need an easy way to collaborate with peers and partners at other institutions. Dropbox Education helps the world's leading research teams connect and collaborate on a national and global level.

Dropbox observed more than 3.3 billion files shared among university users in different cities and with different email domains. From that, we concluded that 40% of the files these users share are done so with other universities.



## Connect and collaborate on a national and global level

Expanding your collaborative network opens the door to more research opportunities for faculty, staff, and students. Dropbox Education connects researchers who are working on similar projects but are cities, states, or countries away. This allows institutions to make better use of their time and share valuable knowledge.



**46 million connections  
among university users**



**12 million registered  
global university users**



**94,000+ shared folder  
invites each week**



## Simplify grant writing

Grant writing often follows the old adage: It takes a village. But if contributors don't have easy access to the files and folders they need, submitting a complete application on time could be a challenge. Dropbox Education makes it easy for grant writers and contributors to access the most up to date file versions, track access, and gather comments from reviewers.

# Streamline research workflows

## 1 Collect materials



Upload class files, recordings, and assignments.



Take class notes on Dropbox Paper and share.

## 2 Compile assignments



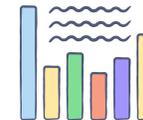
Create Dropbox folders to collect and timestamp assignment materials.



Save research sources in Endnote and upload.



Compile assignment data in Excel, and save files to Dropbox.



Perform analyses in Matlab/STATA, and save files to Dropbox.

## 3 Generate final reports



Edit report drafts, convert them to LaTeX, and save to Dropbox.



Send final report to professor for review, and grade via a shared folder.

## 4 Finish grading period



Professor shares graded and edited report with researchers via Dropbox.

## Powering collaboration on campus and beyond

Universities bring together some of the greatest minds across the world. By leveraging innovative technology to collaborate, universities are positioned to share knowledge at an exponential rate. Increased engagement and collaboration can power new discoveries and uncover untapped potential. Continuing these efforts can help your university attract top faculty and students, secure funding, accelerate research, and boost academic rankings.

Already used by more than **6,000** universities, Dropbox Education has a significant presence on campuses and is continuing to grow. With **500 million** users and **200,000** businesses on Dropbox, it's easy to share documents and collaborate with anyone. Now, Dropbox is also part of the Internet2 NET+ program, to ease deployment, accelerate adoption, and increase security and data protection for the academic enterprise.



“With Dropbox, our reach becomes as immediate and broad as the internet. An ASU curriculum specialist working in Singapore can develop and upload a shared graduate curriculum and connect with an educator teaching in Paris, an administrator in China, and IT support in Tempe.”

—Gordon Wishon, Chief Information Officer at Arizona State University

Want to learn more about how  
Dropbox Education can transform  
your university's workflows?

[dropbox.com/education](https://dropbox.com/education)  
[education@dropbox.com](mailto:education@dropbox.com)

Sources:

1 "The 50 Top Research Universities," 2016, Best College Reviews

2 "EFSS Evaluation Guide: Dropbox Sync Performance," 2016, IDC

