



## How to Choose the Right Headphones for Your Students

In today's ultra-connected, wireless classrooms, headphones are an absolute necessity. With countless models and varying levels of sound quality on the market, the task of [choosing the right headphones](#)—at an affordable price point—can be a daunting one. To streamline the process, consider the following:

### Who is the target audience?

Before considering usage and other factors, identifying the needs of students using the headphones is important. While durability is always a factor in a sharing environment, it may not be as critical if each student “owns” their headset for the year. Likewise, when deciding between earbuds and headphones, a sharing environment should rule out the former for hygiene reasons. Also, age of the student matters, as in-ear headphones may not be ideal for younger children whose shorter ear canals are more sensitive and prone to sound damage.

Consider the target audience and classroom environment to prioritize features that ensure a positive listening experience for your students throughout the school year.

### What's the purpose of the equipment?

To determine whether sound quality is worth considering, it's important to first consider how the headphones will be used in the classroom. For students using headphones to take an exam, noise-canceling features might be more important than a stellar sound quality. Headphones like the [NC-HBC](#) from Hamilton Buhl cancel out harmful and distracting sounds while still being comfortable for the wearer. On the other hand, if the headphones are destined for the music or foreign language, sound quality might make or break the product's usefulness. For the vast majority of classroom applications, however, sound quality often takes a back seat to durability, ease of use, and budget-friendliness.

### Are the headphones durable?

While it is important to choose headphones that meet your price point, you'll want to do so without sacrificing essential features. Depending on the above factors, durability may be more important in certain classrooms than others (think a STEM/makers classroom environment)—but it should always be a consideration. Younger children can be rough on their equipment, for example, and their headphones receive a lot of wear and tear throughout the year. If the classroom is sharing the equipment, durability is even more of a concern.

## Are the headphones easy to use?

Ease of use is of major importance, especially for younger students. Check out product reviews to determine the usability of the model, and pay special attention to comments regarding sound quality, noise-canceling effectiveness, and overall comfort. Also, consider whether Bluetooth enabled headphones would make sense for their ability to connect to most devices (including new Apple iPhone models, which have done away with the standard headphone jack) or whether the Bluetooth connectivity will be too time consuming or susceptible to user-error compared to a simple headphone jack. Headphones that connect to devices through a USB port might be an even better solution for ease of use. For example, the [MACH-2 Deluxe Multimedia USB Headset](#) from Hamilton Buhl plugs in via a USB cord, skipping the headphone jack or Bluetooth connectivity altogether.

Ultimately, headphone sound quality should be considered in light of the intended use, target audience, and overall classroom budget. The key to finding the perfect classroom headphones is to balance durability, ease of use, and an appropriate level of sound quality without breaking the bank.

With several factors to weigh in your quest for the ideal classroom headphones, it helps to have an expert on your side. A Troxell representative will ask the right questions to help you discover the best headphones for your students' needs and make sure you get the best deal possible. Call 1-855-TROXELL to get started today.