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Students, Parents and Teachers Can Share Their Opinions on Schools with Local and National Leaders

The 2010 Speak Up Survey is Open Now Through December 17th
<http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/>

Irvine, Calif. – Over the next eight weeks, more than 300,000 K-12 students, educators and parents will complete the Speak Up 2010 online survey and share their ideas about education and technology with our national leaders. The annual survey opened this week and is facilitated through public, private and charter schools all around the country; every school is eligible to participate. The results provide important insights about education, technology and student aspirations to individual schools, state departments of education and national leaders.

“Each year more schools sign up to be part of Speak Up because it offers them – their students, parents and staff – a way to express their opinions about the future of learning, local and national policies, how teaching could be improved and more,” said Julie Evans, CEO of Project Tomorrow, the survey’s facilitator and a national leader in empowering students to have a voice in improving education in the 21st century.

The 2010 online survey – open now through December 17th for all K-12 students, parents, teachers, pre-service teachers and administrators at <http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/> – offers the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered input on education and technology from those ‘on the ground’ in the schools. Most notably, this year, Project Tomorrow has partnered with several innovative states to promote the Speak Up surveys and each state will receive a customized report with timely, stakeholder data that can be used to inform policies, programs, legislation and funding decisions for education.

“Nationwide feedback gathered from Project Tomorrow’s Speak Up surveys highlights the significant role technology can play in improving student learning,” said Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett. “This year’s survey results will provide valuable data resources for Indiana educators and will establish high-quality 21st Century learning environments for our students.”

This year’s survey includes questions about emerging technologies such as digital textbooks, online learning and the use of smart phones within instruction. Students are asked on the survey to design their own “mobile app” for learning. Additionally, the survey collects first hand data on the critical national issues of teacher recruitment in science and math, evaluating teacher quality and developing greater student interest in science and STEM careers.

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In addition to sharing their insights, schools and districts who participate in Speak Up gain free online access to their own aggregated quantitative data – with national benchmark data for comparison. National data findings will be released during two Congressional Briefings in spring 2010.

Individual participation and responses provided in the Speak Up survey are completely confidential and completing the online survey takes only 20 minutes. The Speak Up surveys are open to every public and private school and district in the United States, American schools on military bases and other interested schools worldwide.

Since 2003, more than 1.85 million K-12 students, teachers, and parents from more than 23,000 schools in all 50 states have participated in Speak Up. The online survey is facilitated by Project Tomorrow and supported by many of our nation's most innovative companies, foundations and nonprofit organizations including Blackboard, Inc., CDW-G, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, K12, Inc., Schoolwires and SMART Technologies. Project Tomorrow partners with over 75 different education associations, organizations and think-tanks for outreach to the schools and development of the survey questions including the Consortium for School Networking, iNACOL, International Society for Technology in Education, National School Boards Association, National Science Digital Library, Southern Regional Education Board and State Education Technology Directors' Association.

About Project Tomorrow

Speak Up is a national initiative of Project Tomorrow, the nation's leading education nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that today's students are well prepared to be tomorrow's innovators, leaders and engaged citizens of the world. The Speak Up data represents the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered stakeholder input on education, technology, 21st century skills, schools of the future and science instruction. Education, business and policy leaders report use the data regularly to inform federal, state and local education programs. For additional information, visit www.tomorrow.org.

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