



Going to School in 2015: how students envision the future!

Across the nation, students are adapting emerging technologies in new and innovative ways for learning. As part of Speak Up 2010, Project Tomorrow, the national education nonprofit organization, asked students to predict what school would be like in 2015. What would “going to school” be like? Would learning be different? What would be the role of the teacher? Here is a sampling of some of those responses:

I think “going to school” will be someone using a mobile device to learn through online school chatrooms.”
8th grade boy, Amherst Central School District - New York

“I think that in 2015 everything would be digital. Textbooks and notebooks would be archived through a computer. Hand outs would be sent to the student’s email accounts so they could open them up in class. And all lectures could be recorded by students.”
10th grade boy, City of Chicago Public Schools - Illinois

“I think that school will be much different. Many of the books will be online, and students may even use such devices as Kindles, iPads, or laptops to access the online books for class. Many of the notes and lectures might become digitalized and if a student is absent, he or she may be able to watch a video of the material covered in class that day. In 2015, I think that the “going to school” part will be much the same as it is today, but technology will simply have a more prevalent role. Learning will be different in that more of it will be technological, and every student will have to learn how to use basic programs like Word or create PowerPoints. Also, classes might be more interactive and use devices in which a student can click a button to answer a question that the teacher poses. In that way, students will be more involved in the class and discussions without the fear of answering incorrectly. The teacher will be able to help the students by directing them to interactive websites, or by having a site in which the students can pose questions to the teacher, which the teacher can then answer from anywhere.”
12th grade girl, Xavier College Preparatory School - Arizona

“...in 2015 people will actually play video games or other types of simulations to learn. We will become advanced enough to put arithmetic, math, science and any other subject into an interesting game.”
11th grade boy, New Hanover County Schools - North Carolina

“If technology takes a step forward by the year 2015, schools would have student dropout rates decrease if computers and other sorts of technology were to be used. Going to school would mean “go have fun” learning. Teachers would only have to teach how to use computers and how to access certain school sites. The way these students learn will be different in ways that are not impossible. Four years from now, I believe that things will be much better, school-wise, than they are now.”
10th grade girl, Vallejo City Unified School District - California

“The school should allow the students to use their mobile devices in class for their school work and students will be more involved in what they are learning.”
8th grade boy, Baltimore City School District - Maryland

“I think in 2015 most classes will be online and the teachers will be able to chat online with the students to help them learn.”
10th grade girl, New Hanover County Schools - North Carolina

“In five years, I do think that going to school will be different from what it is now. We might be able to use our phones and all have our own laptops. Our teacher will have a new role that may be showing how it relates to our world.”
9th grade girl, Calloway County Schools - Kentucky

Preparing today’s students to be tomorrow’s innovators, leaders and engaged citizens.



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“School will be different in the future because there will be more technology in school and therefore the students as well as the teachers will be able to communicate and teach/learn more. More students might be able to bring their own computers and therefore will have faster internet and will be able to get more things done on time instead of using slow computers. Also all the students would be able to use a computer instead of waiting for a free one to open up.”

9th grade girl, City of Chicago Public School District - Illinois

“In five years, I believe our whole school system will be more interactive. As human evolution leads to technological advances many new products come to the availability of school districts. In five years, I foresee the desks being able to project images and we'll be able to connect to the internet so no time is wasted going to get a computer or laptop. This will also be able to connect to the smart board which will allow for ease of sight for students in a far off seat. School will be so much different in 2015. Messages and information will be running through the school, so everything will be connected. Since information will be more rapidly available the way we as students will learn will be vastly different, almost science fiction like. We will be able to chat and communicate or work on projects via webcam. As a teacher, their jobs will be altered. More plans will be incorporated with technology therefore it will be easier to connect to the students.”

10th grade boy, Salisbury Township School District - Pennsylvania

“Students in the future will take all classes online from home at their own pace.”

12th grade boy, Weslaco Independent School District - Texas

“School will be more technology based. It might be completely technology based. All classes might be online. Classes might be through video chat. All work and homework is online. Tests are all taken online. Everything would be done online. You might be able to stay at home and take all classes at home while teachers and other school staff go to school building and have several monitors monitoring each student, checking their work, grading tests, teaching classes through video chat or a handheld smart board.”

9th grade girl, Orange City School District - Ohio

“I think there should be more simulations (like dissecting, driving a car etc.), more access of cell phones and personal technology that you own, provide more technology (like iPad, iPod, iTouch etc.), and more access of interaction with other students like Facebook, Twitter, MySpace etc.”

6th grade boy, Merton Community School District - Wisconsin

“Going to school, 5 years from now in 2015, will be more technologically inclusive. In 2015, classes will have online simulations, videos, games, and websites provided to the students. Each student will be provided with a standard issue tablet computer to save and create documents on, follow a teacher in class, go online to school provided resources, and keep up with the class. Memory drives will be more common in class, and desks will be specifically modified for the use of a tablet computer. Classes will come to include the use of major websites, and students will be encouraged to check online resources for academic use. Homework in the form of printed assignments will no longer be necessary, as our homework can simply be typed *on and submitted* without ever worrying if an assignment has been left at home. Computer labs may even be unnecessary as each student will have a tablet computer for use in and out of school during the school year. Even P.E., a non-academic class, may come to use computer technology for the use of exercise statistics tools, physical simulators, and exercise regimens. School will then be more inclusive of technology than ever before.”

6th grade boy, Poway Unified School District - California

“In the year 2015 I still would like to be going to class and learning from a teacher but I would like for every student to be able to bring a wireless device with internet and a place for notes so we can store data from our classes. This would also let us be able to video tape class lessons for later reference.”

11th grade girl, Plano Independent School District - Texas

“I think the role of the teacher will remain the same but there will be much more interactivity between teachers and students. For instance, more teachers will use technology in class such as smart boards and have more interactive material such as videos and animations that help explain the content of the subjects being taught in school.”

12th grade boy, Virtual High School Global Consortium - Massachusetts

“In 2015 I think school will unlock all websites and let you get on your own resources like Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Skype, etc! Also I think that they will let you use your cell phone or any kind of phone to get answers and stuff like that!”

6th grade girl, Chambersburg Area School District - Pennsylvania

“As the students who grew up during the introduction of technology become educators and administrators, the rules and restrictions on technology use (i.e. using cell phones, accessing certain web sites, and using one's own devices) will change to be more technology friendly. Since it is the students of today who wish to be able to use cell phones in school and use their own devices, they will become the educators of tomorrow who allow it.”

11th grade boy, Salisbury Township School District - Pennsylvania

About the Speak Up National Research Project

Speak Up is a national initiative of Project Tomorrow (www.tomorrow.org) and represents the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered voices regarding the use of technology for learning in and out of schools. Since 2003, over 2.2 million students, teachers, librarians, principals, technology leaders and district administrators have shared their insights through the annual Speak Up surveys and focus groups. Every K-12 school and district is eligible to participate in the annual surveys and the local data results are provided free-of-charge to all participating agencies. Speak Up makes it easy for you to collect feedback from your stakeholders and use it for your budgeting and planning purposes. To access the national Speak Up reports and learn how your school or district can participate in fall 2011, **please visit: www.tomorrow.org/speakup**.

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