



Speak Up 2009

Grades 6-8

Dear Student:

This survey is about your education including your use of technology and how well your school is preparing you for the future.

Your opinions matter!

Since 2003, data from over 1.5 million Speak Up surveys have been shared with local, state, and national leaders. Student opinions are used each year to help make decisions about how to improve education at schools around the country.

All of your answers are 100% confidential. We have not asked you to give us your name anywhere on this survey. There is no way for anyone to know your specific answers. We encourage you to talk with your teachers, parents and classmates about your ideas as

We know that technology means different things to different people. For this survey, "technology" means all kinds of electronic devices such as computers, interactive white boards, cell phones and MP3 players, as well as Internet applications and software

By being part of Speak Up 2009, you are sharing your ideas to improve education for students just like you all across the country. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,
Your Speak Up Team @ Project Tomorrow

**Questions/
Responses**

1 What grade are you in?

Grade 6
Grade 7
Grade 8

2 Gender

Girl
Boy

3 Thinking about the other students in your class, do you consider yourself...

An advanced tech user – more expert than most of the students at my school
An average tech user – the same as most of the students at my school
A beginner – below the skills of most of the students at my school

4 What types of electronic devices do you have access to for your own use? (Check all that apply)

Cell phone (without Internet access)
Smart phone (with Internet access, such as: Blackberry, iPhone)
A desktop computer
A laptop or tablet PC
Netbook or mini-notebook computer
Digital reader (such as: Kindle, Sony Digital Reader)
Music or video device (such as: MP3 player or iPod)
Handheld digital video camcorder (such as: Flip Camera)
Video Gaming System (such as: Xbox, Playstation, Wii)
Handheld game (such as: GameBoy)
Other

5 What kind of computer or Internet access do you have outside of school?

A home computer with no Internet access
A home computer with dialup or slow Internet access
A home computer with fast Internet access (such as: DSL, Broadband, or cable)

Outside of school, I only use computers and the Internet at a location other than my home (such as: the public library, after school program or community recreation center, etc.)

My only access to computers or the Internet is at school

6 How do you use technology for schoolwork? (Check all that apply)

- Access class information (such as: grades, teachers notes or presentations, podcasts)
- Communicate with other students (via email, IM, text or chat)
- Communicate with teachers (via email, IM, text or chat)
- Complete writing assignments
- Conduct research
- Conduct virtual experiments or simulations
- Create slide shows, videos or web pages for an assignment
- Get help from an online tutor
- Listen to a podcast for a class
- Participate in online communities
- Participate in videoconferences
- Participate in 3D virtual reality worlds (such as Second Life, Whyville)
- Play educational games
- Post to blogs or wikis
- Take an online class
- Take tests online
- Turn in papers for plagiarism check (such as: TurnItIn)
- Twitter or post a microblog
- Upload assignments and homework to school portal
- Use my profile (MySpace, Friendster, Facebook) to collaborate with classmates on a project
- Use online textbooks or other online curriculum
- Work on projects with students in other countries
- None of the above

7 Besides not having enough time in your school day, what are the major obstacles to using technology in your school? (Check all that apply)

- Computers or other tech equipment are not available
- I am unable to access the Internet
- I cannot access my personal email account or send email or IM to classmates
- I cannot use my own laptop in school
- I cannot use my own cell phone, smart phone or MP3 player
- I don't have the skills I need

Internet access is not fast enough
My assignments don't require using technology
School filters or firewalls block websites I need to use
Software is not good enough
Teachers don't know how to use the technology
Teachers limit our technology use
There are rules against using technology at my school
My school has different computers or software than I am used to
Not a big deal. I rarely use the technology at my school
None of the above
Other

8 How could your school make it easier for you to use technology for schoolwork? (Check all that apply)

Let me use my own laptop, or netbook (mini-notebook computer)
Let me use my own cell phone, smart phone or MP3 player
Let me access the school network from my laptop
Provide access to social networking sites
Let me access software applications from any computer at home or school
Let me access school projects from any computer at home or school
Provide tools for me to organize my schoolwork
Provide tools for me to communicate with my classmates
Provide tools for me to communicate with my teacher(s)
Provide me with unlimited Internet access through the school
Provide more electrical outlets for re-charging devices
None of the above
Other

9 In some schools, students use mobile devices (cell phones, MP3 players, PDAs etc.) to help with schoolwork. How would you use a mobile device to help you with your schoolwork? (Check all that apply)

Access online textbooks
Access social networking sites (such as: Facebook, MySpace, Friendster)
Communicate with classmates (via email, IM, text or chat)
Communicate with teachers (via email, IM, text or chat)
Coordinate calendars with classmates or share bookmarked websites
Create or share documents, videos or podcasts
Learn about school activities
Look up information on the Internet

Organize my schoolwork
Play educational games
Receive reminders or alerts on my cell phone about homework and tests
Share and edit calendars, or organize bookmarks
Take notes or record lectures so I can refer to them later
Take videos of class presentations or experiments to study from later
Upload or download information from my teacher's website and/or the school's portal
Work on projects with my classmates
None of the above
Other

10 Which of these Internet based tools or applications do you use outside of school?

Upload or download videos, podcasts or photos to the Internet
Use web tools to create or modify and upload videos, music, audio or animation
Create new work using pre-existing text, graphics, audio, video or animation (MashUp)
Communicate with others through email, IM or text message
Communicate with others through discussion boards, social networking sites, chat or online communities
Participate in 3D virtual reality worlds (such as: Second Life, Whyville)
Participate in online games
Update my profile (MySpace or Facebook)
Write or contribute to a blog (my own or someone else's)
Use web tools to create a list of resources I want to share or remember (such as: del.icio.us, digg, diigo, magnolia, reddit)
Use web tools for writing collaboratively with others (such as: GOOGLE docs, writeboard or letterpop)
Contribute to a wiki
Use web tools to notify me about things I'm interested in (such as: news or magazine articles, changes to websites)
None of the above

11 Which of these are true about your use of a social networking site? (Check all that apply)

It is the primary way that I communicate with my friends online
My feelings have been hurt because of something that was posted on a social networking site
My primary social networking site is MySpace
My primary social networking site is Facebook
I am friends with my one or both of my parents on my social

networking site
I am friends with one or more of my current teachers on my social networking site
I don't have a social networking site because my parents won't allow me to
My parents have the password to my social networking site
I use the site to meet new friends
I use the site to get help on schoolwork or to collaborate on a school project
I don't have a site and I don't really want one
I don't think teachers should be on my social networking site
It concerns me that colleges and employers may look at my social networking site
My social networking site helps to keep me better organized
I learn about my friends from their social networking site
When I get home from school, my social networking site is the first thing I check online
I have been harassed online or at school because of something on my social networking site
I have used my site to advocate for a cause that I believe in

12 What is the best way for you to learn about being safe on the Internet? (select one)

By using technology as part of my regular class
From my friends
From my parents or other family members
Learn on my own just by using technology
Learn through a special class at my school
Learn through activities I have participated in outside of school (such as an afterschool program, church, library, club)
Listen to podcasts or watch videos about Internet safety
Take an online class
Other

13 Which of these do you think are inappropriate behaviors for students?

Sending an IM or text message during class
Sending an IM or text message during a test
Talking loud in a public place using a cell phone
Not giving credit when using resources from the Internet
Copying music, movies or games to give to friends
Connecting a USB flash drive to a school computer if that is not allowed

Downloading information from the Internet to a school computer if that is not allowed
Hacking into a school computer to change grades or look at tests
Audio taping a teacher's lecture without permission
Taking photos of tests to share with other students
Sending or posting photos without permission
Texting a friend about test questions
Pretending to be someone else online
Criticizing my school or teachers on a blog or social networking site
Storing information on my cell phone to use during a test
None of the above
Other

14 What device or format do you most often use when playing video or online games? (Check all that apply)

Cell phone based game
Computer software
Console video player based games
Handheld game
Web-based multiple player games
Web-based single player games
Multi-user virtual reality games
Augmented reality simulation games
Games on social networking sites
I don't use any of these
Other

15 What do you think would be the benefits if video or online games were part of your regular schoolwork or classroom activities? (Check all that apply)

I would learn more about the subject
I would be more engaged in the subject
I would learn how to work in teams
Games make it easier to understand difficult concepts
I can see the direct results of my problem solving efforts
It would be more interesting to practice problems
I would be directing my own learning
I would go beyond the basic assignment and try new things through the game
I would get immediate feedback on how much I had learned
I would be better able to connect the real world to the subject matter
None of the above

16 Besides winning, what do you like most about playing video or online games? (Check all that apply)

- Ability to take risks in a safe environment
- Competing with other players
- Customizing the game to my interests
- Developing critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Finding ways to be successful in the game
- The high level of activity in the game
- Making decisions that change the outcome of the game
- Making new friends
- Playing on my own
- Role playing in a simulated environment
- The game gets harder the more I play
- I get immediate feedback on my decisions
- I don't play video or online games

17 Why is learning math important to your future?

- I might want a job that uses math
- I want to earn good grades
- It helps me develop my problem solving and critical thinking skills
- To graduate from high school
- To help me in get into college
- To help me make informed decisions in the future
- Math is not important to me
- I don't like math at all
- I don't know

18 Which of these would be most helpful for you in learning math?

- Learning math by solving real-world problems
- Discussing how I solved a problem with my classmates
- Helping other students learn math
- Learning from a teacher who is excited about math
- Practicing problems from my textbook
- Using interactive simulations to solve math problems
- Solve math puzzles or word problems
- Understanding why math is important in my life
- Using calculators
- Using math blocks, counters, shapes
- Use online or computer based math games
- Using animations to help me visualize difficult math concepts
- None of the above
- Other

19 Our national leaders would like to have more students pursue careers in science, technology, math or engineering. Right now, are you interested in a job or career in any of these fields?

No, those subjects are too hard for me

No, my strengths are in other areas

No, my parents say that other jobs are better

No, those subjects are not interesting to me

Maybe, I would like to know more about those jobs or careers

Yes, I am somewhat interested in a job or career in those fields

Yes, I am very interested in a job or career in those fields

Other

20 Which of the following would help increase your interest in a career you might be thinking about?

Learn about careers through "Day in the Life" podcasts or videos

Learn from teachers who have worked in the professional field I'm interested in

Meet successful role models

Participate in career exploration programs after school

Participate in career exploration programs during the summer

Participate in virtual tours of companies

Participate in competitions that allow me to assess my skills against other students

Receive scholarships to college

Talk to professionals about their jobs

Use tools that professionals use in my classroom (such as: microscopes, probes)

Visit companies

Work in a part-time job in those fields

Work with mentors who can help me with my college and career planning

Provide access to websites with information about careers

None of the above

Other

21 Our national leaders would also like to have more students pursue careers in teaching. Right now, are you interested in a job or career in teaching?

No, my strengths are in other areas

No, my parents say that other jobs are better

No, teaching does not interest me

Maybe, I would like to know more about the different kinds of jobs or careers in teaching

Yes, I am somewhat interested in a job or career in teaching

Yes, I am very interested in a job or career in teaching

No opinion

22 How much do you agree with this statement: My school is preparing me with the skills I will need to get a good job in the future. (select one)

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

Not sure

23 In the past 12 months, how have you been involved in classes taught online?

I researched taking an online class I am interested in.

I took an online class for school that was led by a teacher

I took an online class for school that was a self-study class

I took a blended online class where I spent part of the time online and part of the time in a classroom

I took an online class for personal reasons (outside of school)

I have not taken an online class but I am interested

I am not interested in taking a online class

24 Do you know someone who has taken an online class for school or for their job? If yes, who?

I don't know anyone who has taken an online class

My mother

My father

My brother or sister

A friend

Another family member or guardian

Other

25 If you have taken an online class, you can skip this question. If you have not taken an online class, why not?

I have not found a class I am interested in

My school does not offer online classes

I do not know about the online classes offered at my school

I do not know how to find information about online classes outside of my school

No one at my school can help me find online classes to meet my needs
I do not know how to sign up for an online class
I cannot afford to pay for an online class
I am not sure this would be a good way to learn
I am not interested in taking an online class

26 What would be the most significant benefits to you of taking an online class ?

To take a class not offered at my school
I would get extra help in a subject that is hard for me
School could better fit my schedule
I could earn college credit
To work at my own pace
I would satisfy my school's graduation requirement by taking an online class
I would be in control of my learning
I would be more comfortable asking my teacher questions
I would be more motivated to learn
I would feel more connected to school
I would receive more attention from my teacher(s)
It would be easier for me to succeed
It would be easier to share ideas with my classmates
It would be easier to review class materials as many times as I want
I would have a greater sense of independence
My technology skills would improve
I don't think there would be any benefits for me
I do not know
Other

28 Imagine that you can design a new kind of textbook that will be 100% online. What should be included in that new online textbook? (Check all that apply)

Ability to communicate with classmates about subject matter (IM, email, chat)
Ability to create podcasts or videos
Ability to download information to my cell phone
Ability to make electronic highlights or notes
Ability to search through the textbook by key terms or events
Access to online tutors at anytime
Animations and simulations that explain concepts
Brain teasers or advanced topics to extend my learning

- Calculator
- Games to explore concepts or ideas I'm learning
- Links to real-time data (such as: population, weather, NASA, earthquakes, Google Earth, etc)
- Links to useful websites
- PodCasts from subject experts
- PowerPoint presentations from teachers
- Quizzes and tests that I can take myself
- Self paced tutorials
- Tools to help me collaborate or share information with my classmates (such as: blogs, social networking sites, wikis, bookmarking)
- Tools to help me develop my writing skills
- Tools to help me organize my schoolwork (communications, organize my assignments, take notes)
- Video clips about topics I'm studying
- Virtual reader that could read the text aloud
- Virtual labs
- Webcams or video conferencing capabilities
- Other

29 In the past year, which of these things have you done on your own (not teacher directed, not homework) to improve your education?

- Found an online class to take
- Listened to podcasts or watched videos about a topic I was interested in
- Sought help from other students through my social networking site
- Tutored other students who needed help
- Found a website that helped me better understand a topic we were studying in class
- Found experts online who could answer my questions
- Started a wiki or blog to share my ideas and connect with others
- Sent a tweet about something I was studying
- Posted to a blog
- Found information on the Internet
- Created my own video or podcast to help me share my knowledge with others
- Took an online test or assessment
- Took a self-paced tutorial on a subject
- Used online writing tools to improve my own writing
- Used cell phone applications to help with my self-organization
- Found an online tutor
- Took part in an online game or simulation
- None of the above

Other

30 Which of these statements do you agree with? (Check all that apply)

- Homework helps me practice what I have learned
- I am interested in what I'm learning in school
- I am motivated to work hard
- I am succeeding academically
- I believe my school cares about me as a person
- I feel I am prepared to succeed in school
- I feel safe at school
- I have too much freedom in my classes
- I know how to be safe and protect myself when I am online
- My parents are very involved in my education
- My test scores don't match what I know
- Teachers or my parents expect me to do well in school
- There is at least one adult at school that I can talk to about school or personal problems
- I wish my classes were more interesting
- I do not feel safe at school
- I am having problems with my schoolwork
- I don't like school

31 Which of these have been problems for kids at your school? (Choose any that apply)

- Approached by strangers online
- Sharing too much personal information online
- Seeing websites with inappropriate content
- Students using others' ideas as their own (plagiarism)
- Being harassed online with hurtful texts or photos
- Sharing suggestive text or photos
- Strangers asking to meet in person
- Using technology to cheat in class
- Spending too much time online
- None of the above
- Other

32 Imagine you are designing the ultimate school. Which of these tools would have the greatest positive impact on your learning? (Check all that apply)

- Collaboration tools (such as: blogs, social networking sites, wikis, bookmarking)
- Communications tools (such as: email, IM, or text messaging)
- Computer projection devices
- Digital media tools (video, audio)
- Digital reader (such as: Kindle, Sony Digital Reader)

Digital resources (such as: databases, electronic books, animations, videos etc)
 Document camera (such as: ELMO)
 Electronic portfolios for students
 Games or virtual simulations
 Handheld digital video camcorder (flip camera)
 Handheld student response systems
 High tech instruments for science
 Interactive whiteboards (such as: Smartboard, Polyvision)
 Mobile computer for every student (such as: laptop, mini-notebook, tablet PC)
 Learning management systems (such as: Blackboard, Moodle, Angel)
 Mobile devices (such as: cell phones, MP3 players)
 Online Classes
 Online textbooks
 School website or portal
 Tools to help me organize my work (such as: organize my assignments, take notes, organize my ideas)
 Ability to access the Internet anywhere at school
 Video conferences and webinars
 Virtual or online whiteboard
 Webcam
 Wireless microphone system for the teacher
 Other

33 How would you like to be more involved in education decisions at your school?

Give input through surveys like this
 Be part of a student advisory council for the principal
 Be part of a club that researches problems and proposes ideas
 Have class discussions
 Share ideas online with other students at other schools
 Set up a school blog or wiki to share ideas
 Do a presentation to the school board or parent group
 I am not interested in being more involved in this at my school
 Other

34 Imagine that you are the teacher in your least favorite class at school. How would you improve that class to make it more interesting and valuable for your fellow students? What would you do differently to engage students in learning that subject content? How would you as the teacher use technology more effectively in that class?

35 The US Department of Education has recently announced a new program called “Race to the Top” to help schools do a better job of preparing you for the jobs and careers of the future. What would you like to tell our national leaders about the importance of using new kinds of technology in learning? Write a short (25-30 word) text message or tweet (a concise message sent via Twitter) to tell us why technology use is important to you. Be short and to the point. We will post the best ones on our website next spring.