



## Speak Up 2009

*Grades 9-12*

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 about your education and your future.

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. If there are any items that you do not understand or are not familiar with, please feel free to skip to the next question.

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

**1 What grade are you in?**

- Grade 9
- Grade 10
- Grade 11
- Grade 12

**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
- 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
- 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,
  - 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
  - Use online textbooks or other online curriculum
  - Work on projects with students in other countries
  - None of the above
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**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

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**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

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**9 In some schools, students use mobile devices (laptops, cell phones, smart phones, MP3 players, PDAs etc.) to help with schoolwork. If that was allowed at your school, 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)  
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  
Take notes or record lectures so I can refer to them later  
Take videos of class presentations or experiments to study from later  
Share and edit calendars, or organize bookmarks  
Upload or download information from my teachers' website and/or the school's  
Work on projects with my classmates  
None of the above

Other

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**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
- Create new work using pre-existing text, graphics, audio, video or animation
- Communicate with others through email, IM or text message
- Communicate with others through discussion boards, social networking sites,
- Participate in 3D virtual reality worlds (such as: Second Life, Whyville)
- Participate in online games
- Update my profile (such as: MySpace, 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
- Use web tools for writing collaboratively with others (such as: GOOGLE docs,
- Contribute to a wiki (such as: Wikipedia)
- Use web tools (such as: GOOGLE reader) to notify me about things I'm
- None of the above

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**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
- My primary social networking site is MySpace
- My primary social networking site is Facebook
- I am friends with 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
- 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
- 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
- I have been harassed online or at school because of something on my social
- 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
- Listen to podcasts or watch videos about Internet safety
- Take an online class
- Other

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**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
- 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

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**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

I don't use any of these  
Other

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**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
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**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
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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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  
Receive scholarships to college  
Talk to professionals about their jobs  
Use tools that professionals use in my classroom (such as: microscopes,  
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

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**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  
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

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**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.**

Strongly agree  
Agree  
Disagree  
Strongly disagree  
No opinion  
Not sure

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**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  
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

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**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

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**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

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**27 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 am learning
- Links to real-time data (such as: population, weather, NASA, earthquakes,
- Links to useful websites
- Podcasts from subject experts
- PowerPoint presentations of lectures
- Quizzes and tests that I can take myself
- Self paced tutorials
- Tools to help me collaborate or share information with my classmates (such as:
- Tools to help me develop my writing skills
- Tools to help me organize my schoolwork (communications, organize my
- Video clips about topics I'm studying
- Virtual reader that could read the text aloud
- Virtual labs
- Webcams or video conferencing capabilities
- Other

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**28 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
- 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

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**29 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  
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

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**30 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 texts or photos  
Strangers asking to meet in person  
Using technology to cheat in class  
Spending too much time online  
None of the above

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**31 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)
- Document camera (such as: ELMO)
- Electronic portfolios for students
- Handheld digital video camcorder (Flip camera)
- Games or virtual simulations
- 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
- Ability to access the Internet anywhere at school
- Videoconferences and webinars
- Virtual or online whiteboard
- Webcam
- Wireless microphone system for the teacher
- Other

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**32 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
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- 33** 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?

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- 34** 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.