



## Speak Up 2009

Parents

Dear Parent:

This survey is about your child's education and your ideas about how your school is preparing your child for their future. We are also interested in how you and your child use technology for learning and communicating.

**Your opinions matter!** Since 2003, the Speak Up responses from over 1.5 million teachers, students, and parents have been shared with local, state, and national leaders. The Speak Up data annually influences decisions on school policy and planning around the country.

The survey consists of a series of multiple choice questions plus an open-ended type question at the end where you can write in your response. The survey should only take you about 20 minutes to complete. After the open-ended question, there are 5 demographic questions. These questions are optional and are used only by us to give context to our national data findings.

**All of your answers are 100% confidential.** That is why 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 children and their teachers about your ideas for using technology effectively for learning.

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. Thank you for your participation.**

Sincerely,  
Your Speak Up Team @ Project Tomorrow

## Questions/Responses

**1 Are you a..**

- Mom
- Dad
- Grandparent
- Other relative or guardian

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**2 Please select any grades that your child(ren) attend.**

- Preschool
- Kindergarten - Grade 1 - Grade 2
- Grade 3 - Grade 4 - Grade 5
- Grade 6 - Grade 7 - Grade 8
- Grade 9 - Grade 10 - Grade 11 - Grade 12
- Other

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**3 How would you describe your own technology skills?**

- An advanced tech user – My skills are more advanced than most adults I know
- An average tech user – My skills are the same as most adults I know
- A beginner tech user -- I am still learning how to use most technology tools

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**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 laptop or tablet PC
- A desktop computer
- Netbook or mini-notebook computer
- Digital reader (such as: Kindle, Sony Digital Reader)
- Handheld digital video camcorder (such as: Flip Camera)
- Music or video device (such as: MP3 player or iPod)
- Video Gaming System (such as: xBox, Playstation, Wii)
- Hand-held game (such as: GameBoy)
- Other

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**5 What kind of Internet access do you have at home?**

- A computer with no Internet access
- A computer with "dial-up" or slow Internet access
- A computer with fast Internet access (such as: DSL, Broadband, or cable)
- No computer at home. My primary access to technology is at public libraries, community centers, etc.
- No computer at home. My primary access to technology is where I work

No computer at home and no other access to technology

**6 How satisfied are you with your Internet access at home?**

Very satisfied

Satisfied

Not satisfied

No opinion

I do not have Internet access at home but would like to

I do not have Internet access at home and I do not want it

**7 What are your top three concerns regarding your child's school right now?**

Classes are too big.

Course material is not engaging

How my student will continue learning if the school closes

I don't feel a connection with the school

I don't know how to communicate with the school or my child's teacher(s)

No afterschool programs or child care

Not enough emphasis on job skills

Not enough funding

School day is too short

School does not offer the classes my child needs or wants to take

School is no longer fun for my child

School is too big

School is too far away from our home

School safety

Teacher quality

Technology is not used to support learning

Textbooks are out of date

Too many discipline problems that take away from learning

Too many extracurricular programs have been cut

Too much emphasis on tests

Too much homework

Other

**8 How important is the effective implementation of technology within instruction to your child(ren)'s success?**

Extremely Important

Important

Somewhat Important

Not Important

No Opinion

**9 Which of the following aspects of technology would you rate as acceptable at your child's school?**

Access to information not available anywhere else  
Amount of technology available for student use  
Availability and quality of online classes  
Internet safety and privacy of personal information  
Priority placed on using technology  
Quality of hardware and software  
Teacher's skill in using technology  
Technology skills my child learns  
The amount of time spent using technology  
The way technology is used for academic purposes  
The use of my child's mobile devices within instruction  
Use of online textbook  
None of the above  
I don't know what technology is available at my child's school

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**10 Many schools are thinking about how to use mobile learning devices (such as smart phones, PDAs and MP3 players) within education. What do you think would be the primary benefits of using such devices in instruction?**

Access to online textbooks  
Improves teacher-parent-student communications  
Increases student engagement in school and learning  
Increases teacher productivity  
Prepares students for the world of work  
Provides a way for instruction to be personalized for each student  
Provides a way for students to informally review classroom material  
Provides a way to help students who are struggling  
Students develop collaboration and teamwork skills  
Students develop critical thinking and problem solving skills  
Students develop stronger communications skills  
These devices help to extend learning beyond the school day  
Use of these devices will help improve the teacher's technology skills  
I don't think these devices will positively impact learning  
No significant benefit  
Other

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**11 If your child's school allowed the use of mobile devices for educational purposes, how likely would you be to provide one for your child?**

- Very likely
- Likely
- Not likely
- Very unlikely
- No opinion
- Unsure

I think it is the responsibility of the school to provide technology for my child to use for educational purposes.

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**12 Imagine you can design a new kind of textbook for your child(ren) that will be 100% online. What should be included in that new online textbook to help your child(ren) learn? (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 their 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 child(ren)'s learning
- Calculator
- Games to explore concepts or ideas my child(ren) are 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 of lectures
- Quizzes and tests that my child(ren) can take on their own
- Self paced tutorials
- Tools to help my child(ren) collaborate or share information with their classmates (such as: blogs, social networking sites, wikis, bookmarking)
- Tools to help my child(ren) develop their writing skills
- Tools to help my child(ren) organize their schoolwork (communications, organize assignments, take notes)
- Video clips about topics my child(ren) are studying
- Virtual reader that could read the text aloud
- Virtual labs
- Webcam or videoconferencing capabilities
- I don't think online textbooks are a good idea
- Other

**13 Which of these Internet based tools or applications do you use for your own personal interests?**

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

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**14 Which of these are true about your use of a social networking site such as Facebook, MySpace or LinkedIn? (Check all that apply)**

- I don't have a social networking site but I would like one.
- I don't have a social networking site and I don't want to have one.
- It is the primary way that I communicate with my friends or work colleagues online.
- I am friends with my child through my social networking site.
- I am friends with my child's teacher(s) through my social networking site.
- It concerns me that current and future 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 sites.
- I access my social networking site during the day from my job.
- When I get home from work, my social networking site is the first thing I check online.
- I have used my site to advocate for a cause that I believe in.
- I belong to Facebook.
- I belong to MySpace.
- I belong to LinkedIn.
- Other

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**15 What do you think is the best way for your child(ren) to learn about being safe on the Internet?**

- Learn on their own just by using technology
- Learn through a special class at school

Learn by using technology as part of their regular classes  
Learn through an online class  
From me  
From their friends  
From other family members  
Other

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**16 What concerns you the most about your child(ren)'s Internet use at school or home?**

Advertising and spam  
Copyright issues/illegal file sharing  
Difficulty evaluating the credibility of an online resource  
Ineffective Internet filters and firewalls  
Meeting strangers online  
Online bullying  
Online predators  
Plagiarism and cheating  
Privacy of records and information  
Sharing too much personal information online  
Too much time spent on the computer  
Violent or inappropriate video or online games  
Virtual environments  
Websites that are inappropriate for my child's age  
I don't have any concerns.  
Other

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**17 Why is learning math important to your child(ren)'s success?**

To be successful in a future job  
To earn good grades  
To help develop problem solving and critical thinking skills  
To graduate from high school  
To help my child get into college  
To help make informed decisions in the future  
Math is not my child's strength  
I don't think that math is important for my child(ren)  
I don't know  
Other

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**18 Our national leaders are interested in encouraging students to pursue careers in science, math, engineering, technology and teaching. Which of these areas are you likely to encourage your child to pursue a career? (Check all that apply)**

Science  
Math

Engineering  
Technology  
Teaching  
None of the above  
Not sure

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**19 Some teachers are starting to use educational games within instruction. How do you think using online or video games in school could help students' learning?**

Appeals to different learning styles  
Increase student motivation and engagement  
Opportunities for students to develop their creativity  
Provides environment to visualize difficult concepts  
Student-centered learning  
Students can create models and test their assumptions  
Students can develop their collaboration skills  
Students can develop their problem-solving and critical thinking skills  
Students can more deeply explore an idea through the virtual world  
Students can practice their skills and develop expertise  
Students gain experience through "trial and error "  
Students learn that failure is an opportunity to learn  
Students would get immediate feedback on what they have learned  
I don't see the value of using games in the classroom  
None of the above

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**20 Which of these do you think most students in your child(ren)'s school recognize as inappropriate behaviors?**

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 the school or teachers on a blog or social networking site  
Storing information on a cell phone to use during a test  
None of the above

Other

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**21 During this past year, have you taken an online class for personal or professional/work-related reasons?**

Yes - I took a class for personal reasons

Yes - I took a class for professional/work-related reasons

Yes - I took online classes for both personal and professional reasons

No - but I would be interested

No - I am not interested

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**22 There has been discussion this fall about how schools will cope if they need to shut down temporarily because of a health or natural emergency. Some schools are creating plans to keep the learning process happening even if the school itself is shut down. Which of these plans would work best for your family if your child(ren) could not go to school?**

School would send home hard copy packets of photo-copied reference materials, curriculum and assignments

School would provide online materials for students to access through a school portal or website

Teachers would do check-ins and tutorials with students using variety of methods including telephone, web conferencing and email on a one-on-one basis

School would distribute recorded class meetings via podcasts, live or on demand television, DVDs or through school websites

Teachers would hold live class meetings using online courses, webinars, conference calls or virtual schools for two way communications between students and teachers

None of the above

I don't know

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**23 If you were on a technology committee for a new school, which of these would you recommend as a good investment to enhance student achievement?**

Collaboration tools (such as: blogs, social networking sites, wikis, bookmarking)

Communications tools (such as email, IM and text messaging)

Computer projection devices

Digital media tools (video, audio)

Digital reader (such as: Kindle, Sony Digital Reader)

Digital resources (such as: databases, animations, videos etc)

Document camera (such as: ELMO)

Electronic portfolios for students

Games/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 that help my child(ren) organize their work (such as: organize my assignments, take notes, organize my ideas)

Ability to access Internet anywhere at school

Videoconferences and webinars

Virtual or online whiteboard

Webcam

Wireless microphone system for the teacher

Other

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**24 How much do you agree with this statement: My child(ren)'s school is doing a good job of preparing my child(ren) for the jobs of the 21st century.**

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No Opinion

Unsure

I do not think this is the responsibility of K-12 education

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- 25 **What makes a great teacher a great teacher? Think about the teachers that your child has had in school, or teachers you had when you were in school, and tell us about the qualities or characteristics that you think define a truly great teacher today.**
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**These questions are optional and used for data analysis only**

- 26 **Gender**  
Female  
Male
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- 27 **Age**  
Under 29  
30-39  
40-49  
50-59  
60-69  
70 +
- 

- 28 **Race or Cultural Identity**  
American Indian/Alaskan Native  
Asian  
Black/African-American  
Caucasian/White (non-Hispanic)  
Hispanic/Latino  
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander  
Decline to state  
Other
- 

- 29 **Highest level of educational attainment**  
Less than high school diploma  
High school diploma  
Some College  
Bachelor's degree  
Graduate Education
- 

- 30 **Household Income**  
Less than \$15,000  
\$15,000 - \$24,999  
\$25,000-\$49,999  
\$50,000 - \$74,999  
\$75,000 - \$99,999

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Parent Survey

\$100,000 - \$149,999

\$150,000-\$200,000

Over \$200,000