



## Speak Up 2006 Snapshot of Selected National Findings from K-12 Students

### Technology Use

- Top technology devices for students K-12: computers, cell phones and video game players.
  - Use of digital cameras, MP3 players and laptop computers all increased dramatically in just the past two years for students in grades 3-12.
  - Weekly use of desktop computers by students in the early elementary grades (K-2) increased by 28% in just one year.
  - Over 53% of students in grades K-12 use video game players on a weekly basis – with girls just as likely to be game players as boys until high school.
- Students are using technology for schoolwork to do Internet research, to create presentations and movies and to practice skills by playing educational games.
- Students in grades 6-12 are increasingly more likely to learn about new technologies and websites from their friends and by exploring on their own.
  - In a surprising new finding, almost half of the students said that they are also learning about new technologies from teachers and parents; a growth of more than 2x over 2004 results. Also growing in influence: TV shows.
- Online classes are increasingly interesting and appealing to students. Reasons to take an online class: “for subjects not offered at my school and to get extra help in subjects where I am struggling.” Which subject would kids like to take an online class – math!
- In contrast to their parents and teachers, students are not as concerned about online safety and privacy. Only 25% of students called these concerns; over 2/3 of parents and teachers had these as their top concerns. Top concerns for students: spam, digital access equity, online cheating.
- If students could change how technology is implemented at their school, their #1 request: relax school rules about email, IM, cell phone and online use. #2: laptops to use at school and home.
- Gaming, email, IM and personal websites continue to be the predominant activities for students’ non-schoolwork use of technology with significant growth over 2005 and 2004 use statistics.
  - Downloading of music increased 4X from 2004 to 2006 across all students Grades 3-12.
  - Updating personal webpages such as mySpace doubled in the same period.
  - New this year: 31% of students in grade 3-5 visited TV show websites regularly.

### Communications and Connected-ness

- The favorite communications device for students in K-12 is the cell phone for talking. 73% of students in grades 9-12 use a cell phone daily. 97% of students think that cell phones should be allowed at school for emergencies and connecting with parents.
- Students are increasingly using online tools to connect with other students around the country and around the globe. 54% of middle school students have online friends that are from other schools, other states or other countries. 26% of middle schoolers have more than 50 online friends – and 53% have never met these online friends face to face.

### Science, math and 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs

- Students want to learn science and math through real world problem solving, visiting places where science is in action, talking to professionals in those fields and using technology in many ways.
- While 86% of students in K-2 are interested in specific careers in science and/or math, starting in grade 3 that interest starts to decrease. In grades 3-12 over 1/3 of students say that they are not interested in any careers in science, math, technology or engineering.