



Overview

Since 2003, the Speak Up National Research Project has collected and shared the ideas and views, from over 1.5 million K-12 students, teachers, parents and administrators, on education and technology. This dataset provides national education leaders and policymakers with the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered stakeholder feedback to inform annual policy, programs and funding. However, the most significant impact is for the schools and districts that regularly use Speak Up as a guide for planning technology use, investments and implementation strategies within their community.

This year, with the historic education stimulus funding, the ideas and views of our K-12 students, and use of the Speak Up data, is more important than ever before.

What do parents think about how technology is being used in their child's school?

Speak Up 2008: 21,309 parents

- Almost 80 percent agree that the effective implementation of technology is crucial to their child's success. Yet only one-third of parents are satisfied with the amount of technology at their child's school, the way technology is used for academic purposes or the technology skills that teachers and students are learning. Only one in four parents is satisfied with the priority placed on implementing technology and the quality of the hardware and software.
- The top three things parents would like to improve at their child's school: make sure that all students have access to computers, train teachers how to integrate technology into learning and teach students how to use technology for school work.
- Almost one-half of parents rate Internet safety and privacy of personal information as acceptable at their child's school.

"Powering Up" schools to create tomorrow's innovators

➤ What do parents think about children "taking it mobile" at school?

- One-third of parents report that using mobile devices for learning could increase student engagement and learning and prepare students for the world of work. Almost 20 percent of parents believe that using mobile devices could help students develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, communications, collaboration and teamwork.
- Using mobile devices provides an opportunity to personalize student learning and extend the school day, according to one in five parents. They would also improve teacher-parent-student communications, according to one-third of the parents.
- While some parents see the value of mobile devices for learning, only 6 percent envision mobile devices in their ultimate school, or would recommend mobile devices as a good investment if they were on a technology committee.

➤ What are parents' perceptions about online textbooks and online classes?

- Two out of five parents envision online textbooks in their child's ultimate school and would recommend online textbooks as a good investment if they were on a school technology committee. Only 5% don't believe that online textbooks are a good idea.



- Parents want technology tools incorporated into their child's online textbook that would help their child organize their work and become more self-directed through self-paced tutorials, online tutors, advanced topics to extend their child's learning, quizzes and tests.
- Online textbooks should be current and media-rich, using animations or simulations and links to web resources, according to one-half of parents. One in three parents recommend including games, video clips or power point presentations to help their child learn.
- One in five parents would include online classes in their child's ultimate school and recommend online classes as a good investment if they were on a school technology committee. One-third of parents agree/strongly agree that students should be required to take an online class to graduate from high school.

➤ ***Provide affordable, high speed Internet to improve access to new resources.***

In their ultimate school, students want access to digital resources, games and virtual simulations, and video conferencing which may push already limited Internet capacity at their school. Almost 50 percent of parents agree/strongly agree that providing affordable, high-speed Internet access should be a national priority.

- In addition to supporting the Internet requirements of a digitally-rich school, one-half of the parents would use enhanced Internet capacity to access information about their child's education through a school website or portal. One-third would research or read text-based resources (e.g. digital libraries, electronic textbooks, newspapers or magazines). About 10% would play online games, upload or download videos, participate in video conferencing or take online course (both parents and students).
- As students have greater Internet accessibility at home or school, parents continue to voice concern about the amount of time their child spends online, its potential dangers and their child's ability to use the Internet responsibly. About one-half of parents are worried that their child will meet strangers or predators online, share too much personal information or access inappropriate websites. Two out of five parents are worried that their child will be bullied online. About one-third of parents are also concerned with their child's ability to evaluate the credibility of online resources, understand plagiarism and cheating, or use violent or inappropriate video/online games.

How are parents encouraging the next generation of innovators?

One half of parents report they are likely/very likely to encourage their child to pursue a career in the science, engineering or technology fields. What's the number one thing parents do to encourage their child's scientific curiosity? Make sure their child completes their homework, according to three out of five parents. Parents also show an interest in science themselves, visit science-related places, watch television shows about science, talk about science or discuss careers and jobs that use science.

Parents continue to use traditional routes to foster their child's interest in science such as science fairs, or working with their child on science projects. Some parents (one in four) are also embracing newer technologies to encourage their child's scientific curiosity by providing their child with computer games that use science.

One-third of parents see the value of high tech instruments for science on their child's learning, and would recommend scientific instruments as a good investment.