

School Leaders: How to Improve Student Outcomes with Educational Technology



School leaders are uniquely positioned to implement educational technology that transforms how children develop important skills to better prepare them for future workplace opportunities. To succeed, however, school leaders must overcome limited budgets and the challenge of building and sustaining community support for investing in technology and changing curriculum to include the technology.

Our new e-book, ***The Ultimate Guide to Educational Technology Benefits***, explains how it can be done.

Educational technology has the promise of enabling educators to evolve classroom methods in order to address students' unique needs through personal and immersive educational paths. The nonstop introduction of digital devices for the classroom makes it faster and easier than ever to connect students and teachers to information and experiences around the world.

Yet such promises require a serious plan for buy-in and implementation with not only your staff but also with parents and students and other stakeholders in the community. School leaders can take the lead on integrating educational technology into curriculum by focusing on the following three objectives:

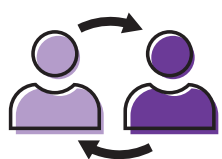
- 1** **Link use of educational technology to academic priorities** by establishing goals for what students, teachers and staff are expected to accomplish with the technology.
- 2** **Explore methodologies** that maximize the value of educational technology and empower students in new ways.
- 3** **Understand and advocate the value of investment (VOI)** in the digital redesign of classrooms.

“One of the bigger mistakes that schools make is that they rush the implementation for the sake of the implementation. I would challenge them to go slow. Get buy-in and build capacity in your community, in your teachers and your students. As you roll out, it rolls up.”

Dr. Adam D. Fried, Superintendent for
Harrington Park School District in New Jersey

Integrate Tech Plans Closely with Academic Goals

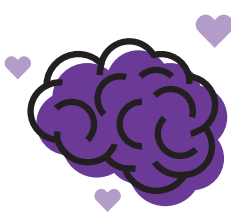
Educational technology can spark interests that equip students with the creative and cognitive tools to thrive in the future workplace. Schools should accelerate learning with technology that builds in-demand skills and achieves academic goals, such as:¹



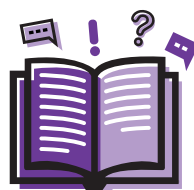
Collaboration through interacting with classmates on project-based activities



Creativity by arranging music, designing characters and building 3D models



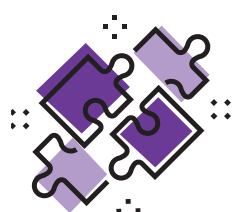
Emotional intelligence through social and emotional learning (SEL) exercises



Engagement and intellectual curiosity during student-directed activities and exploration



Communication with various storytelling techniques and media



Comprehension by digitally viewing complex concepts, processes and more



Transform Classrooms with Digital Instruction

School leaders should leverage educational technology to enhance existing curriculum, build invaluable skills and empower students by adapting lessons to individual learning styles. **Three new ways help to deliver on these methodologies:**



Blended Learning²

Students learn through a combination of learning modalities (face-to-face instruction and online learning) to achieve one single objective.



Project-Based Learning³

Students learn through rigorous application of knowledge and skills, not just recall or recognition. Students engage in inquiry, solution building and product construction to address a real-world issue or challenge.



Immersive Learning⁴

Augmented reality and virtual reality devices display immersive media that creates breakthrough teaching and learning opportunities through simulation, generating empathetic thinking at macro and micro scale.



Evaluate Educational Technology Cost Saving and Efficiencies

School leaders can strengthen their case for educational technology by estimating VOI. This cost-saving and efficiencies analysis can help justify the resources needed for implementation and can be used in the following manner:

Evaluate projects competing for funding.

Convince constituents by conveying specific, achievable benefits.

Explain the resources and actions needed to implement educational technology projects.

Sustain the project in the future by reviewing actual costs and benefits.

Discover How to Lead Technology Integration

School leaders can evolve educational systems to place more emphasis on next-generation job skills by incorporating interactive technologies into the classroom.⁵ Succeeding in this role requires school leaders to involve educators and the local community in the design of curriculum content and technology integration in the curriculum. Once academic priorities and VOI are established, school leaders can consider:

1

What hardware and software the school should purchase

2

How to train teachers, students and staff to use the educational technology

3

How the educational technology investment could be expanded and sustained





Learn how to calculate and explain the value of incorporating technology in your school system's curriculum by reading *The Ultimate Guide to Educational Technology Benefits*.

[DOWNLOAD THE E-BOOK](#)

Sources

¹World Economic Forum, "The Future of Jobs Report 2018," September 17, 2018, http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_2018.pdf.

²Clifford Maxwell, "What Blended Learning Is – And Isn't," Blended Learning Universe, March 4, 2016, <https://www.blendedlearning.org/what-blended-learning-is-and-isnt/>.

³Maggie O'Brien, Defined Learning, Defined STEM Blog, "What is Project-Based Learning?" <https://www.definedstem.com/blog/what-is-project-based-learning/>.

⁴Alice Bonasio, "Immersive learning transforming education," *CIO*, January 23, 2018, <https://www.cio.com/article/3250253/education/immersive-learning-transforming-education.html>.

⁵James Manyika, "Technology, jobs, and the future of work," McKinsey Global Institute, May 2017.