



Digital Learning in Special Education Classrooms:

*Insights from Research
and Practice*

**Speak Up
2014 National
Results:**

**Views of
Special
Education
Teachers**

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Today's Discussion

Introductions

Research: Speak Up Findings

Practice: Discussion with our teachers

Your thoughts, ideas, comments



Project Tomorrow, a global education nonprofit organization

Programs:

- Research & evaluation studies
- STEM education programs
- Advocacy for digital learning

Mission: To ensure that all of today's students are prepared to become tomorrow's leaders, innovators and engaged citizens of the world.

Speak Up National Research Project

Annual national research project

- Using online surveys + focus groups
- Surveys for: K-12 Students, Teachers, Parents, Administrators, Community Members
- Special: Pre-Service Teachers in Schools of Education
- Open for all K-12 schools and schools of education
- Schools, districts & colleges receive free report with their own data

Inform policies, plans & programs


- Local: your stakeholder data
- State: state level data
- Federal: national findings

**4 million
surveys since
2003**

Speak Up survey question themes

- Learning & Teaching with Technology
- College and career ready skills
- Students' Career Interests in STEM
- Professional Development / Teacher Preparation
- Internet Safety / Data Privacy Issues
- Administrators' Challenges / Bandwidth Capacity
- Emerging Technologies both in & out of the Classroom
 - *Mobile Devices, Online Learning, Digital Content, E-texts*
 - *Educational Games, Social Media tools and applications*
 - *Flipped Classroom, Print to Digital, Online Assessments*
- Designing the Ultimate School/Classroom

Speak Up 2014 national participation: 521,846



| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| K-12 Students | 431,231 |
| Teachers & Librarians | 44,289 |
| Parents (in English & Spanish) | 35,337 |
| School/District Administrators/Tech Leaders | 4,324 |
| Community Members | 6,656 |

About the participating schools & districts

- 8,216 schools and 2,676 districts
- 30% urban / 40% rural / 30% suburban
- All 50 states + DC + Guam + DODEA schools

Key trends from Speak Up 2014

- Increased **urgency** around digital learning
- High **parental interest** in students using technology to prepare for future
- Experimentation with **new classroom models**: mobile, blended and flipped learning
- Usage of **digital content** in classrooms on the rise
- Leveraging **STEM** to develop college and career readiness skills
- Focus on using technology to **personalize learning**

Focus on Special Education Teachers

- **4,475 special education teachers**
 - Preschool & Elementary School: 36%
 - Middle & High School: 49%
- 55% have a Master's degree in education
- Varying levels of experience represented
 - 3 years or less: 9%
 - 4-10 years: 30%
 - 10 – 15 years: 19%
 - 16 + years: 39%

Focus on Special Education Teachers

1

Personal value proposition of technology usage

2

Digital learning in the classroom

3

Benefits of digital learning for students and teachers

1

Personal value proposition of technology usage



1

Personal value proposition of technology usage

What mobile devices do you have for your own use?

| Device | All Teachers | Special Education Teachers |
|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Smartphone | 88% | 86% |
| Laptop | 85% | 84% |
| Tablet | 64% | 62% |
| Digital Reader | 34% | 34% |



1

Personal value proposition of technology usage

How do you use technology for your teaching tasks?

| Professional tasks using technology | Elementary School Teachers | Secondary School Teachers |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Create videos of my lessons or lectures that my students can watch | 6% | 7% |
| Use email to communicate with my students | 12% | 40% |
| Use online quizzes for formative assessment | 12% | 34% |
| Customize digital content I find online to meet my class needs | 22% | 22% |
| Use a school portal for class information | 49% | 74% |
| Create presentations to support lessons or class activities | 75% | 74% |

2

Digital learning in the classroom



2

Digital learning in the classroom

Which best represents your classroom model?

Special education teachers say:

Tradition classroom 86%

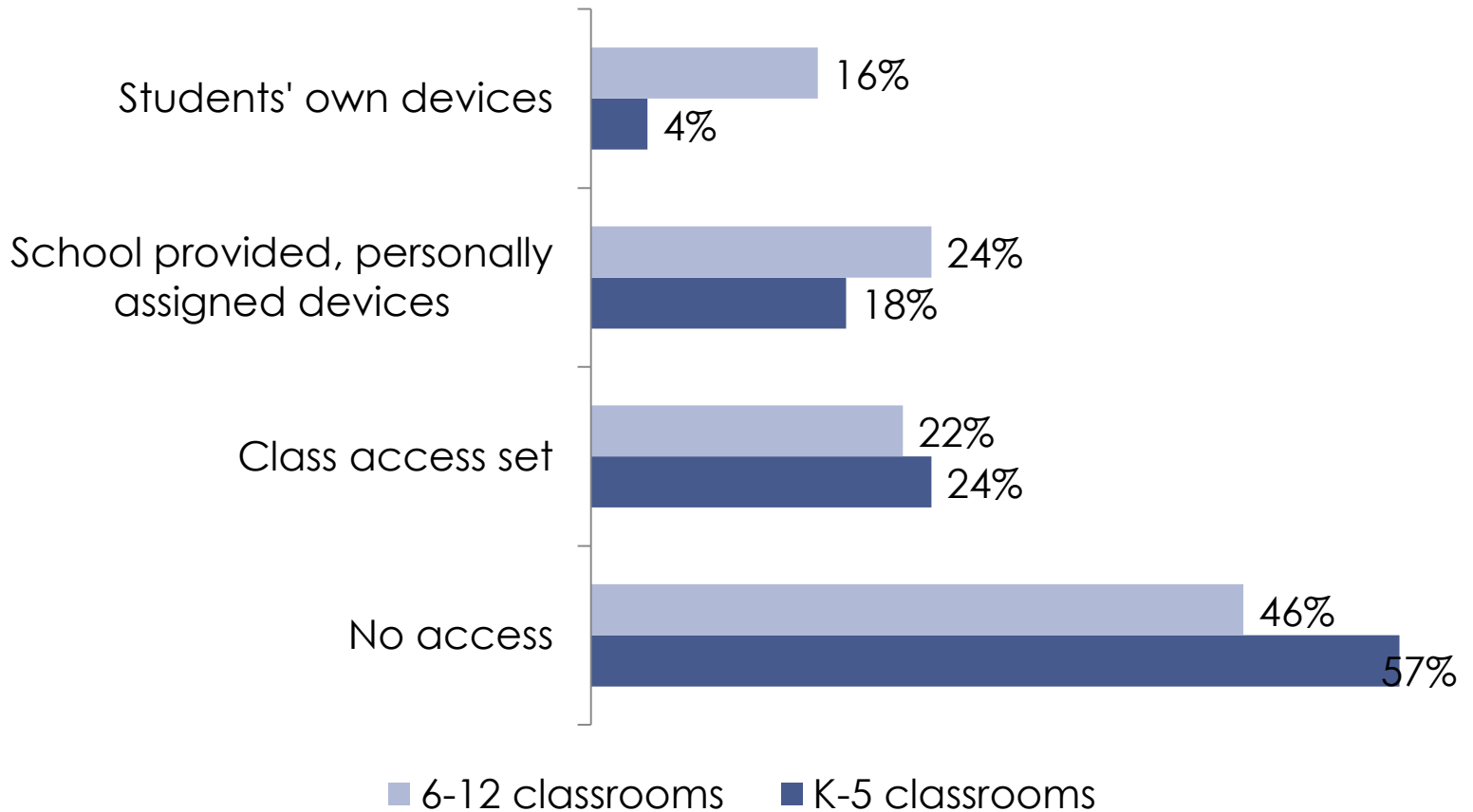
Blended classroom 13%

Flipped classroom 1%

2

Digital learning in the classroom

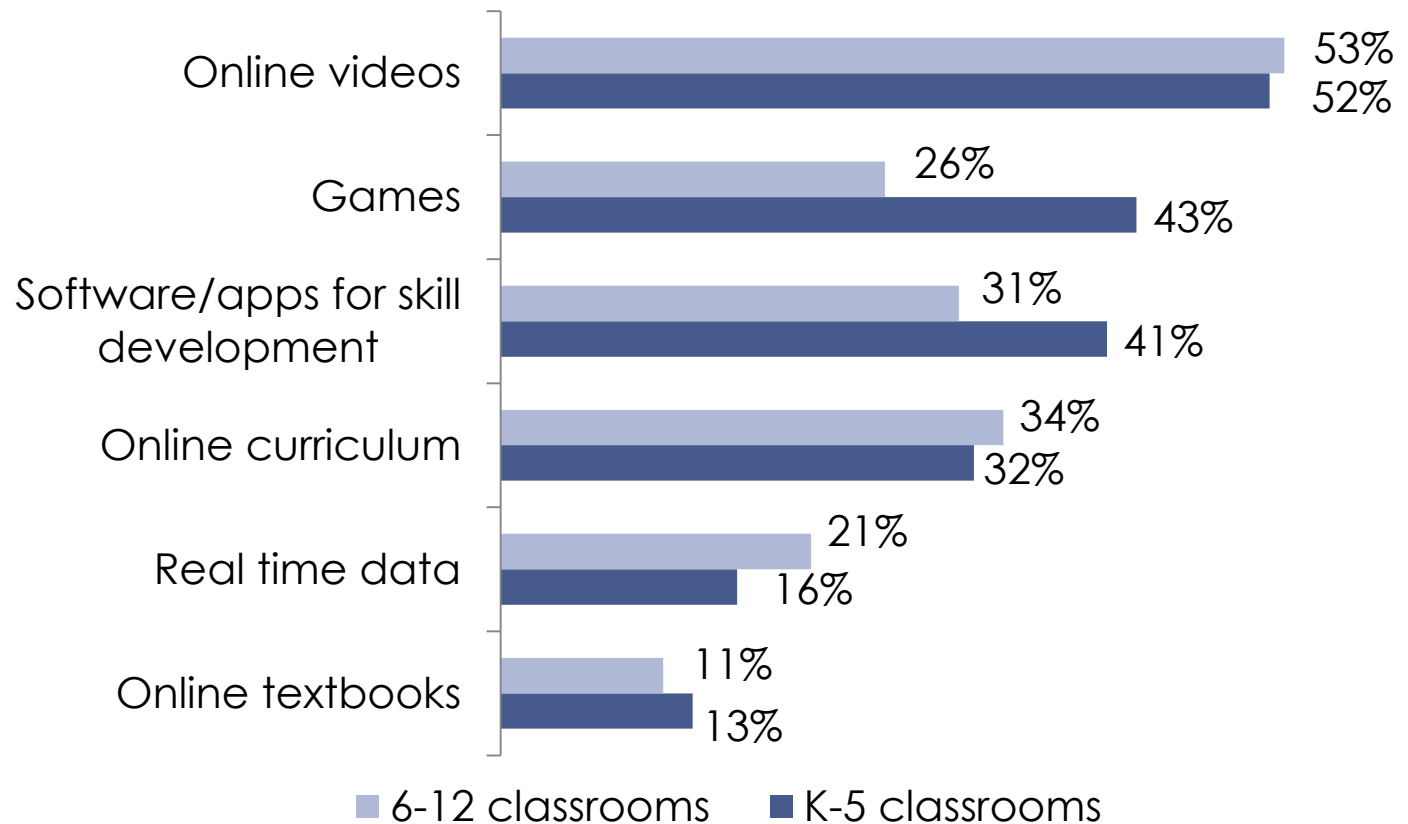
What access do your students have to mobile devices in your classroom for learning?



2

Digital learning in the classroom

What digital content are you using with your students?



3

Benefits of digital learning for students and teachers



3

Benefits of digital learning for students and teachers

Why would you implement digital games with your students?

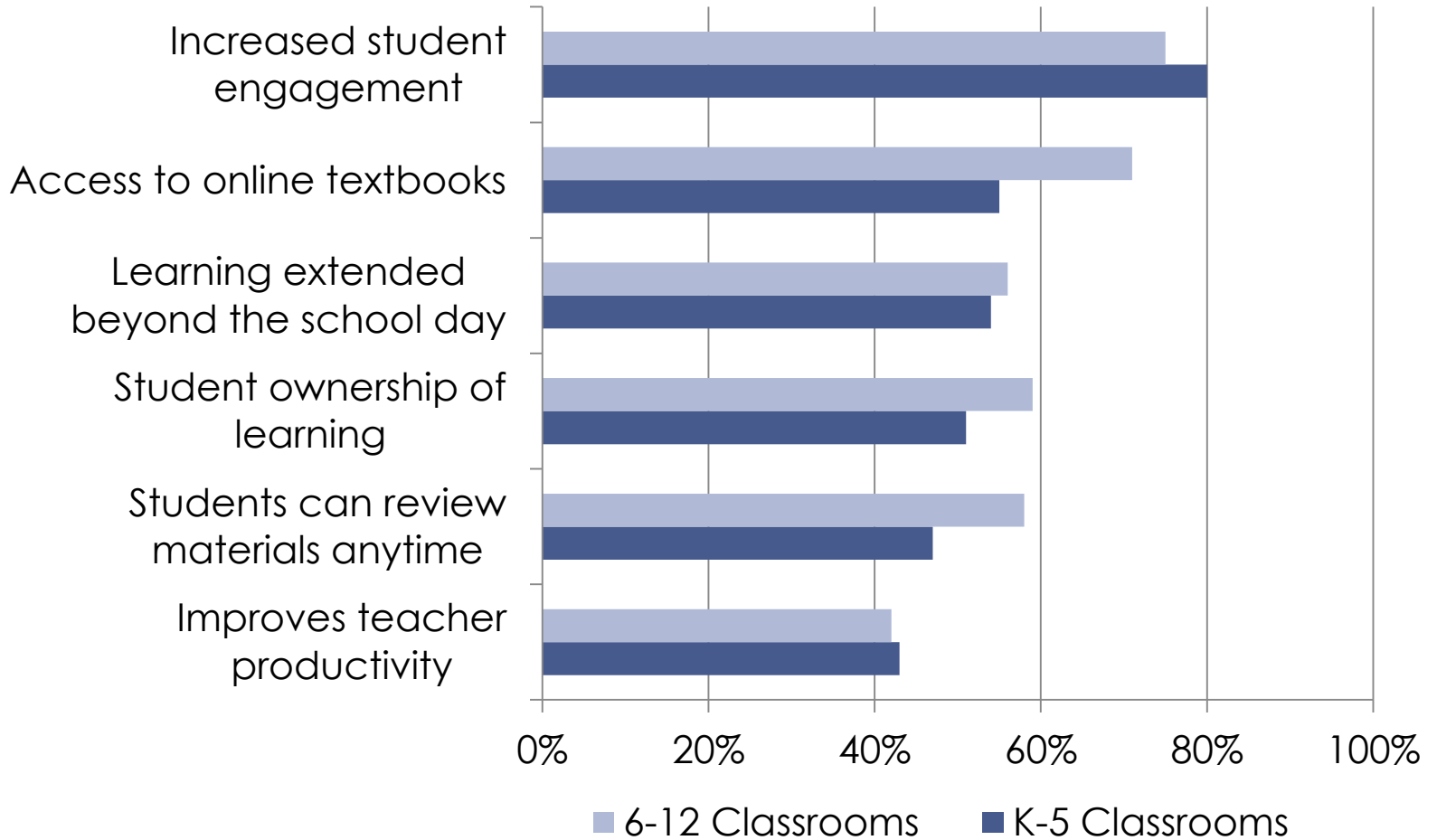
Elementary special education teachers say:

- 1. As an engagement/motivation tool 85%**
2. Address different learning styles 77%
3. To differentiate instruction 65%
4. Reinforce understanding 58%
5. Provide opportunities for remediation 55%

3

Benefits of digital learning for students and teachers

What are the benefits of mobile learning?



3

Benefits of digital learning for students and teachers

What is the impact on your effectiveness?

Special Education teachers say they are:

1. Better organized
2. Creating more interactive lessons
3. Facilitating more student centered learning experiences
4. Spending more time differentiating instruction
5. Encouraging my students to be more self-directed in their learning

3

Benefits of digital learning for students and teachers

And on your students?

Special Education teachers say their students are:

1. More motivated to learn
2. Developing problem solving and critical thinking skills
3. Developing greater creativity skills
4. Collaborating more on class projects
5. Participating more in class discussion

Focus on Special Education Teachers

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Benefits of digital learning for students and teachers

Discussion with our teachers

❖ Angela Foreman

❖ James Scarano

More Speak Up? www.tomorrow.org

National Speak Up reports and infographics

Targeted and thematic reports

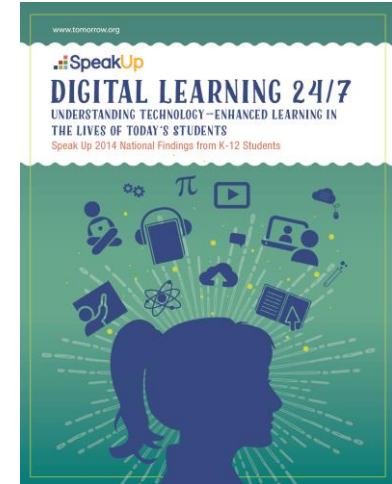
Digital learning trends

Mobile learning & social media

Games in the classroom

Blended learning outcomes

New digital parent series



Presentations, podcasts and webinars

Services: consulting, workshops, evaluation and efficacy studies

Speak Up 2015 opens in October



Thank you for this conversation!

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