Students Speak Up to our national leaders about the importance of using technology for learning.

“We are the future. Technology is the future. Therefore, we are technology.”
12th grade boy

“We are in a generation consumed by technology. Paired with passion and interactivity, it can become the catalyst in the learning environment for the children of today.”
12th grade girl

“We use cell phones all the time in the real world...why can't we use them at school? They're an important part to our society!”
9th grade girl

“We could text each other without interrupting the teacher if we need help on the subject we are learning. :(
9th grade girl

“We need to use technology to help us really understand what we're learning. We can expand our knowledge of the subject via the internet and something as simple as twitter, by seeing classmates' tweets.”
6th grade girl

“We are living in a technological revolution, yet all of the schools in the United States are stuck in the eighties. We need to be able to learn through technology not have our school avoid using it or punish kids when they do use it.”
10th grade boy

“Using webcams to explain things in some kind of subject and posting it online is a great way for kids to get things, but some schools don’t allow it! Some kid’s interests in a career do not include science, math, engineering etc. so some kids may suffer in those subjects without the help of online videos, podcasts, or even blogs.”
6th grade girl
“I personally believe that having more technology in our school systems may engage more students. With proper supervision and private textbooks/blogs, internet bullying probably wouldn’t be much of a problem. If I were part of Congress, I’d address the kids of the nation that they are responsible for everything they do online, and if they “accidentally” partook in activities on a website they weren’t allowed on, and saw/read some hurtful things, they shouldn’t have gotten on the website in the first place, so there’s no need for the school system to take away computer privileges. Now, if some stranger managed to get into a private website for schools, and cyber-bullied someone, then they are innocent, and it means that those programs need to be further protected, not shut down altogether.”

7th grade boy

“We can have an amazing imagination. Most of the things that you want us to learn we don’t want to do. We’re not lazy or trying to rebel but it’s all boring. Put some creativity in the subjects we learn and make it fun.”

10th grade boy

“Hello DOE! We need to have technology in our classes to keep interested. These can help us in the future more than whiteboards, and can easily show us tools to find answers. There should also be a rule that all students and faculty need a Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter profile to help with homework. Then we can discuss homework help. We also could have webcams and cameras to have after school help with teachers.”

7th grade boy

“Using new kinds of technology in learning may influence students to strive for a certain dream. Online games can help kids become better and gain skills. I believe that everyone has a purpose and something that they can do, whether it is social or academic. Every single person, every living being, is unique.”

7th grade girl

“Our generation is very tech savvy and I feel that since it’s what we grew up with, that we are more comfortable and it would make learning easier. I also feel that if we allowed more technology such as laptops at school that kids would try harder and be more motivated to learn.”

8th grade girl

“Technology is an integral part of careers now and more so in the future. Exposing students to new technology prepares them for what they might see later on. Having tools will allow people to work at their own pace, explore their own interests and discover new topics to research.”

7th grade boy

“Texting and using twitter can help kids talk to each other and that can help our brains work faster and if the teachers would take some time out of the day and let kids talk to each other or text other there would be less disruptions...”

6th grade boy

“Technology is important because it helps us be who we are. We all have the freedom to be ourselves by sharing blogs and more internet stuff and just letting us be who we want to be. I would like to tell our national leaders about letting kids bring their own devices including laptops, gameboys, leappads, and any other devices that might help them in the future.”

6th grade girl

“The purpose of using technology would be to get a better understanding of the world. All of the things we can’t or aren’t learning in regular class is most likely on the internet; where basically everything is. MySpace, Facebook, Twitter and etc. are useful because they get more social experience.”

8th grade girl

“I think technology use is important because you can do so much with it. If you use a cell phone you can communicate with friends to ask for help. With an iPod you can watch podcasts to help you with a subject. On computers and Smartphones you can access the internet and use the online textbooks for help. That is why I think technology use is important.”

7th grade girl

“With online learning, you could easily upload or download textbooks so that students wouldn’t have to bring so many textbooks home. It would also be helpful if teachers let you use computers for school needs and posted your assignments online so that if one lost it, they could print it out in case the teacher had ran out.”

6th grade boy

“Technology is important to me because it helps in the learning process. It motivates students to show up to school everyday. It gives them something to look forward to. And they could play educational games with supervision.”

7th grade girl

“Using technology in learning is a good way to learn. I am a student that sometimes goes online and finds games to play in a subject that I am struggling in.”

7th grade girl