DO YOU KNOW?
TEN THINGS THAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT K-12 TEACHERS AND DIGITAL LEARNING

1. TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTING TEACHERS’ WORK
Many teachers have moved beyond just creating slideshows for class. Today's digital teacher is using mobile apps for professional tasks (44%), Google docs to collaborate (76%), and online videos to learn new skills to use in their classroom (62%).

2. TEACHERS ARE MOBILISTS!
Teachers are more tech-enabled than ever with regular access to smartphones (88%), laptops (85%) and tablets (63%). About 1/3 are also fluent with using a digital reader like a Kindle or Nook (34%).

3. MOBILE EXPERTS IN THE CLASSROOM TOO
Since 48% of teachers say students in their classrooms have regular access to tablets, laptops and Chromebooks, today's teachers are increasingly gaining front row experience in mobile learning. Biggest benefit of the devices: increased student engagement (77%). Biggest challenge: devices can lead to distractions (76%).

4. WE ♥ TEACHERS THAT TEXT
Just like everyone else, teachers are using texting to communicate quickly and efficiently with colleagues (62%) and increasingly, the parents of their students (28%). But do teachers text with students? Only a few so far (7%).

5. ALL ABOARD THE DIGITAL CONTENT TRAIN
Growth in teacher use of online videos (up 33% over 2013), Google for education (up 38%) and digital curriculum (up 55%) is fueling interest in new classroom models such as blended and flipped learning.

6. LET’S PLAY TO PERSONALIZE LEARNING
While we know games engage students, teachers say games enable them to address various learning styles (70%), differentiate instruction (60%) and create classrooms that are more learner centric (44%). Play on!

7. WHAT IS HOLDING BACK DIGITAL LEARNING?
Besides time, teachers say digital equity concerns (69%) and not enough computers for students (54%) are real classroom challenges to digital learning. And 33% say Internet at their school is too slow for the digital content they want to use!

8. WISHING UPON A STAR FOR PD THIS YEAR
No. 1 item on teachers’ wish list for professional development is to learn how to use technology to differentiate instruction (51%). Skill items such as classroom strategies for games (36%), tablets (30%) and digital content (26%) are still popular.

9. GOODBYE PASSIVE – HELLO ACTIVE LEARNING
Armed with smartphones and comfortable with social media, teachers are tapping into podcasts and videos for professional learning (41%), Pinterest for classroom ideas (33%) and online conferences or webinars about topics of interest (28%). Learning is not just for in-service days anymore!

10. I’M ENABLING THE FUTURE!
Teachers say their use of digital tools in the classroom results in more motivated students (50%) who take ownership for their learning (36%) and have strong critical thinking and collaboration skills (36%). Just what the future wants to hear!

Source: Speak Up 2014 Research Project Findings – the results of the authentic, unfiltered views of 41,805 K-12 teachers nationwide. Learn more about other research findings from Project Tomorrow on digital learning at www.tomorrow.org.