

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.