

December 5, 2016

**Digital Learning Today:
Examining realities vs. aspirations**

Sample of findings from the Speak Up research

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Speak Up Research Project on Digital Learning

- Annual research since 2003
- Uses online surveys + focus groups
- Schools/districts register to participate
- Surveys for: K-12 Students, Teachers, Librarians, 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 – and state and national data for benchmarking

Data informs: **policies, programs, funding at local, state and federal levels**

4.5 million surveys since 2003

Speak Up 2015 national participation: 505,676

K-12 Students	415,686
Teachers & Librarians	38,613
Parents (in English & Spanish)	40,218
School/District Administrators/Tech Leaders	4,536
Community Members	6,623

About the participating schools & districts

- 7,825 schools and 2,676 districts
- 25% urban / 35% rural / 40% suburban
- All 50 states + DC + Guam + DODEA schools


Headlines from our research with K-12 students:

- Learning is a 24/7 enterprise for students
- Blurring of informal and formal arenas for learning
- Students as content producers not just consumers, especially in the arts and sciences
- Access to digital content is changing classroom dynamics
- Self-directed, collaborative learning is preferred
- Value of school tied to digital learning relevancy
- Desire for highly personalized learning experiences

School reality vs. student aspirations: a learning disconnect

*Five years from now, everyone will be using tablets and technology every single day. Students play online games to study. Students will also have a class blog, so if they have question, they can get help. **Five years from now, we use technology every day in school.***

8th grade boy, Texas



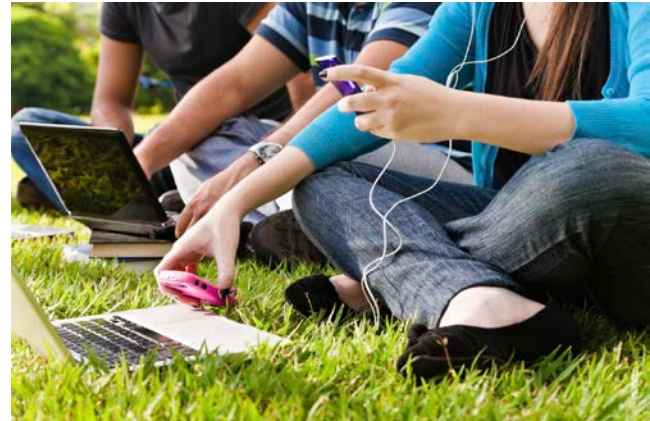
“Knowing it and seeing
it are two different
things.”

Suzanne Collins, *Mockingjay*



Using Speak Up data to examine this learning disconnect to inform today's discussion

K-12 students' aspirations and frustrations



**Administrators' realities
Teachers' behaviors
and values**

What do we know about K-12 students today?

Doing well in school is important to me

82% of high school students agree

I like learning how to do things

70% of high school students agree

I like learning about new ideas

64% of high school students agree

Source: Speak Up National Results from 107,086 high school students in 7,825 schools nationwide, fall 2015

What do we know about K-12 students today?

The **subjects** that I am learning in school are important for my future

48% of high school students agree

The **skills** that I am learning in school are important for my future

43% of high school students agree

What do we know about K-12 students today?

I am **often bored** in my classes

53% of high school students agree

I wish my **classes were more interesting**

57% of high school students agree

Top barriers to school use of technology:

**School bandwidth
School filters
Too many rules!**

What do we know about K-12 students today?

Learning



School

K-12 Student Vision for Learning



Today's students are interested in learning that is:

Social-based learning

Un-tethered learning

Digitally-rich learning

What do we know about K-12 students today?

I like learning when I can be in control of when and how I learn

52% of high school students agree

I am learning important things for my future on my own outside of school

50% of high school students agree

Students are using digital tools to personalize and extend learning beyond school or teacher sponsorship

- Watching a video to learn how to do something (79%)
- Research a website to learn more about a topic (77%)
- Reading news stories or reports (64%)
- Using social media to follow experts or learn what people are thinking about (55%)
- Playing online games or simulations (50%)
- Using online writing tools to improve writing skills (38%)
- Taking an online class (30%)

Students, how do you want to explore future careers?

Goal: Gain real world life experiences that are personalized to my interests

Students are more interested in:

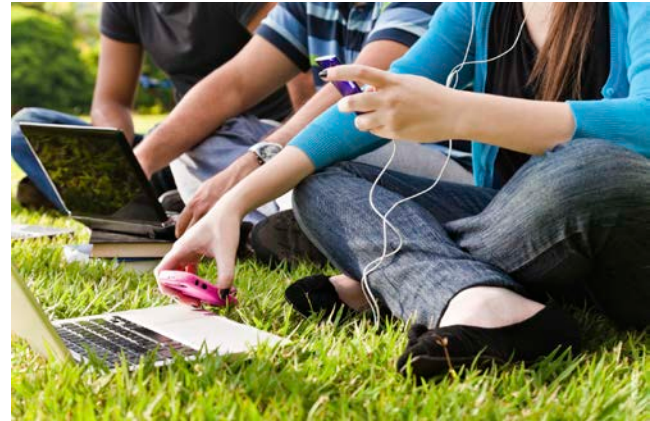
- Playing an **online or digital game** about the career
- Taking an **online quiz** to evaluate strengths/interests
- Researching career field **mobile apps/websites**
- Watching **videos** about different jobs/careers
- Using **social media** to follow people in different jobs

And less interested in:

- Participating in an **after school program** about careers
- Going to a **summer camp** like science camp
- Participating in **competitions** to see how my skills compare with others
- Taking **CTE classes** at school

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What has greatest potential to enhance student achievement in your district?

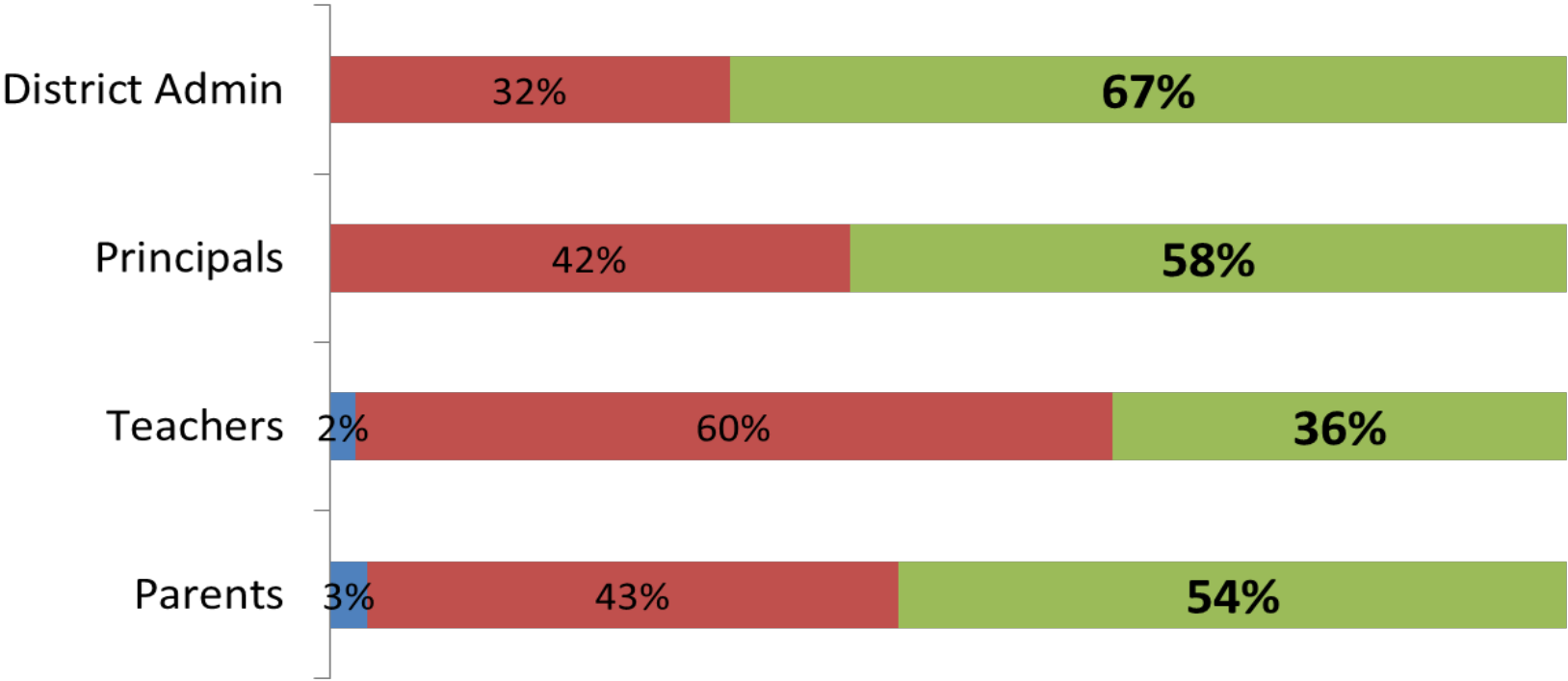
1. Increasing teacher effectiveness
2. Leveraging digital content, tools and resources more effectively
3. Integrating college and career ready skill development into curriculum

Transforming teaching and learning to meet students' expectations

Greatest challenge?

54% of principals say biggest challenge is motivating teachers to change the way they are teaching to leverage digital content, tools and resources within instruction

How important is the effective use of technology for students' future success?



■ Not important ■ Important ■ Extremely important



What is the value of digital learning on students?

Students say:

Workplace skill development:

- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Applying knowledge to problem solving
- Critical thinking

Changes in learning behaviors:

- Extending learning
- Increased communications

Stronger self-efficacy:

- Learn at own pace
- In control of learning
- Learning fits personal style

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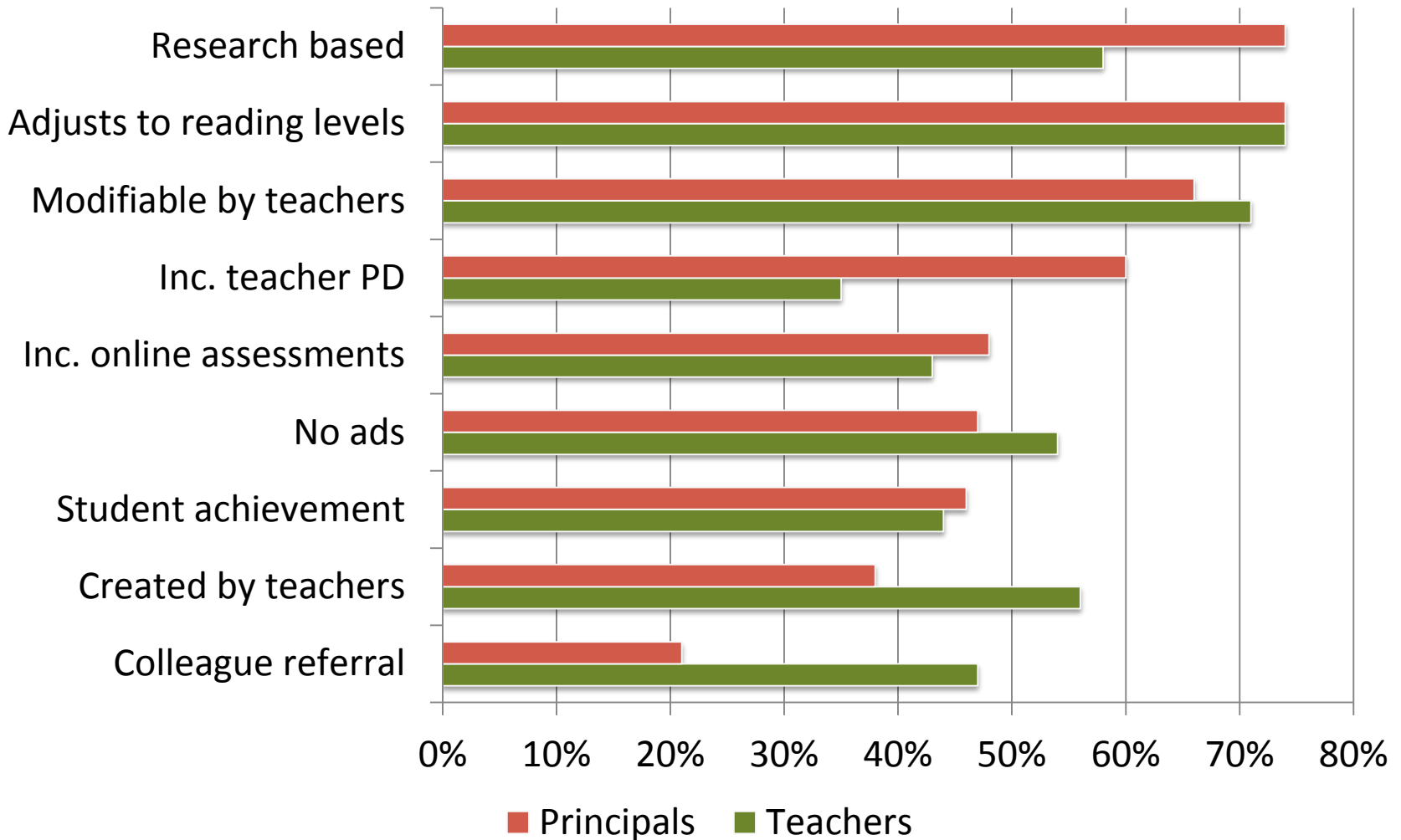
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Teachers say:

Greater engagement in the learning process

Better comprehension of class content

Metrics for evaluating the quality of digital content



K-12 Outreach: Opportunities and Obstacles

- **Students' aspirations/experiences using digital content to support self-directed learning**
- **Students connect digital learning to skill development, outcomes and self-efficacy**
- **Administrators' (and parents') high valuation on digital learning as prerequisite for future success**
- **Teachers' different perceptions of value**
- **Slow adoption of meaningful digital learning pedagogies**
- **Institutional barriers that unintentionally limit and thwart digital learning**



Thank you for inviting me to be part of this
discussion!

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