Building Digital Learning Capacity With Effective Use of E-Rate Funds
Building digital learning capacity with effective use of E-rate funds

New insights from the Speak Up Research Project

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Today’s discussion

- Welcome to today’s webinar!
- Introduction to Project Tomorrow and the Speak Up Research Project
- Share highlights from our Speak Up Research
  - How districts are funding digital learning initiatives
  - Role of E-rate funds in supporting a new culture around tech use
  - Infrastructure needs to support the ultimate school
- Discussion with our panelists
- Your turn! What are your questions or comments on this topic?
- Additional resources for you
Special thank you to our sponsor
Our guest panelists

Ken M. Benich
Director of Technology
School City of Hammond
Hammond IN

Cory Robertson
Director, Digital Education Services
Anaheim Elementary School District
Anaheim CA
About Project Tomorrow

- Nonprofit education organization supporting K-12 education since 1996
- Mission is to ensure today’s students are well prepared for the future
- Programs and research focus on role of innovation and new learning models within the education ecosystem. We believe in the power of transformational teaching and learning to support student preparation for future success.

**Speak Up Research Project:** national research supporting the development of new leadership capacities within K-12 through the translation of stakeholder feedback into actionable assets

**Evaluation & Efficacy Studies:** helping education leaders understand the impact, outcomes and ROI of innovative solutions and new learning models within K-12 education
About the Speak Up Project
(www.tomorrow.org/speakup)

- Annual research project since 2003
- Facilitated 100% through schools and districts
- We provide education leaders with a suite of online surveys to use to collect feedback from their stakeholders all year long
- All preK-12 schools and teacher prep programs – public, private, parochial, charter, virtual - are eligible to participate
- Participating entities get summary reports with all locally collected data + state and national data for benchmarks
- Turnkey service provided by Project Tomorrow with no charge/fee to participating districts

Since 2003, over 5.7 million K-12 stakeholders have submitted a Speak Up survey
Education leaders use Speak Up findings to create “actionable knowledge”
Living for today or tomorrow with digital learning investments

*How E-rate funding supports K-12 school district capacity building as well as connectivity*

- Webinar – today!

An emerging threat to educational transformations

*New demands for digital learning held back by bandwidth capacity challenges*

- Webinar – December 4 at 2 pm ET

Are we ready for School 2020?

*Leveraging online resources to support students’ learning and teacher effectiveness*

- Webinar – January 22 at 2 pm ET

Building digital learning capacity with effective use of E-rate funds

New insights from the Speak Up Research Project

- How districts are funding digital learning initiatives
- Role of E-rate funds in supporting a new culture around tech use
- Infrastructure needs to support the ultimate school

Source:
Speak Up 2018-19 Findings representing the views of 334,000 K-12 students, parents, teachers and administrators from a diverse set of schools and districts - 26% urban, 41% rural, 33% suburban, and 59% title 1 eligible
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New insights from the Speak Up Research Project

How districts are funding digital learning initiatives

What issues are “waking up” district administrators in the middle of the night?

#1 Inadequate school funding
How districts are funding digital learning initiatives: *it’s complicated!*

- Districts rely upon a mix of different types of funds: federal, state and local funds
- District size and community type often dictate the types of funds used
- Transformation of the American classroom is accelerating
- Increased implementation of online tools, content and resources driving new investments in tech infrastructure, teacher training and digital solutions
- 50% of districts say they are using competitive funds from the FCC’s E-rate program to support technology infrastructure specifically
How districts are funding digital learning initiatives: *it’s complicated!*

Poll:

What is your #1 funding source to support your district’s digital learning initiatives?

- Federal Title funds
- E-rate funds
- State and federal grants
- District budget line items
- Other
How districts are funding digital learning initiatives: differences by type of community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urban school districts: % of district administrators who report this as a funding source for technology</th>
<th>Suburban school districts: % of district administrators who report this as a funding source for technology</th>
<th>Rural school districts: % of district administrators who report this as a funding source for technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Federally funded Title programs (43%)</td>
<td>1. Specific line items in general funds (52%)</td>
<td>1. E-rate funds (63%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Specific line items in general funds (42%)</td>
<td>2. State and federal competitive grants (40%)</td>
<td>2. Grants from local education foundations (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Grants from local education foundations (38%)</td>
<td>2. Grants from local education foundations (40%)</td>
<td>3. Specific line items in general funds (51%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. E-rate funds (28%)</td>
<td>3. Federally funded Title programs (34%)</td>
<td>4. Federally funded Title programs (48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. State and federal competitive grants (28%)</td>
<td>4. E-rate funds (32%)</td>
<td>5. Re-allocating funds from other programs within the district budget (41%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Special bond measures or local taxes (28%)</td>
<td>5. Re-allocating funds from other programs within the district budget (27%)</td>
<td>6. State and federal competitive grants (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Parent support group/PTA funds (21%)</td>
<td>5. Parent support group/PTA funds (27%)</td>
<td>7. Parent support group/PTA funds (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Re-allocating funds from other programs within the district budget (13%)</td>
<td>6. Special bond measures or local taxes (16%)</td>
<td>7. Special bond measures or local taxes (28%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Building digital learning capacity with effective use of E-rate funds

New insights from the Speak Up Research Project

E-rate funding for digital learning initiatives

- Increased appetite for Internet connectivity within schools
  - Use of online content and curriculum
  - Desire to offer online courses for students and teachers
  - New learning models in the classroom
  - New investments in Internet-dependent devices

- Needs for higher levels of bandwidth and Internet capacity to support learning applications

- Demand for E-rate funding continues to exceed current levels of available funds

- E-rate funding as a stable source of financial support for infrastructure
Building digital learning capacity with effective use of E-rate funds

New insights from the Speak Up Research Project

Beyond supporting infrastructure, is there a relationship between access to E-rate funds and the development of a new digital learning culture within a district?
Beyond supporting infrastructure, is there a relationship between access to E-rate funds and the development of a new digital learning culture within a district?

1. District leaders have a more sophisticated approach to digital learning
   - 48% of district leaders in E-rate using districts say: enhanced Internet connectivity can help to close the achievement gap. Only 1/3 of leaders in districts that are not using E-rate funds say the same.
2. More technology enabled learning experiences for students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital learning initiatives</th>
<th>Percentage of districts that have implemented the digital learning initiative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Districts that are using E-rate funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloud-based collaboration tools</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:1 mobile device program for students</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual classes for students</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blended learning classrooms</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. More technology enabled learning experiences for students

- Emphasis with these learning models requires stability and fortitude with Internet connectivity

- Confidence in the technology infrastructure that empowers more advanced digital learning initiatives

- Greater focus on the development of digital citizenship
  - Higher percentage (64%) of E-rate using districts have implemented digital citizenship training that other districts (49%)
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2. Greater capacity of re-aligning district budgets to support technology infrastructure
   - Creating specific budget line items to support digital learning
   - Re-allocating current budget line items to support digital investments
   - Building sustainable internal capacity for the future infrastructure needs
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New insights from the Speak Up Research Project

What is the future for digital learning? What types of investments in infrastructure will be necessary to support this future vision?
## What is the future for digital learning? What types of investments in infrastructure will be necessary to support this future vision?

*How are you going to pay for this?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital tools</th>
<th>Percentage of respondents who chose this digital tool for their ultimate school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students in Grades 6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:1 program where every student is assigned a mobile device</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online games for learning</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile apps for learning</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online videos for classroom use</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital content including animations and simulations</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online tools to help students organize schoolwork</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital media creation tools for students</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual reality environment</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Key findings from this new report:

✓ School districts are leveraging a variety of funding sources to support digital learning initiatives.

✓ E-rate funds support the development of a new culture within school districts that emphasizes more advanced digital learning models and greater innovation.

✓ Students, teachers and principals have high expectations for digital learning and those aspirations are placing new demands on school districts for greater investments in infrastructure, solutions and teacher training.
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Your turn

Your questions, thoughts, comments, ideas
More resources available at www.tomorrow.org

National Speak Up reports and infographics

Targeted and thematic reports
- Digital learning funding
- School communications
- Mobile learning
- Blended learning outcomes
- Coding and creativity

Presentations, podcasts and webinars

Services: consulting, workshops, evaluation and efficacy studies

✓ We have expertise in the evaluation of mobile implementations, new classroom models and digital content usage

✓ We facilitate leadership development workshops such as:
  • Workshops to help districts develop responsive messages and visions
  • Workshops that help districts interpret feedback data from stakeholders
Online surveys available for:
- K-12 students – individual + group
- Parents – English and Spanish
- Teachers
- Librarians/Media Specialists
- School Site & District Administrators
- Technology Leaders
- Community Members
- Communications Officers

- Surveys open from now through June: use them when it makes sense for your district
- Two formats: multi-thematic Speak Up 360 or quick, single theme Speak Up Snapshots
- 100% free – with full data reports for you!
- Use Speak Up to learn how to translate the views of your stakeholders into assets

Speak Up is open now for school and district participation
Learn more at:  www.tomorrow.org/speakup
Your partner in connected learning

For more information visit enterprise.spectrum.com/E-rate2020
Thank you for joining us today!

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