PA Department of Education
Chester County Intermediate Unit
Webinar Series
March 18, 2009

Pennsylvania Students, Teachers & Parents
“Speak Up” about Technology and Learning

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Project Tomorrow

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What are the expectations of today's students? How well are schools and districts meeting the needs of these students? What are the important trends in education & technology that we should be discussing today?
What is Speak Up?

- Annual national research project
  - Online surveys + focus groups
  - Open for all K-12 schools
  - Schools/districts get back their own data for planning and budgeting

- Collect data ← Stimulate conversations
  - K-12 Students, Teachers, Parents and Administrators

- Inform policies & programs
  - Analysis and reporting – national reports, state reports, district reports
  - Services: custom reports, consulting services, webinars
  - NCES back end database – provide statistically significant samplings

- 6 years of empowering authentic voices – since 2003:
  - 1.3 million K-12 students
  - 103,000 teachers
  - 54,000 parents
  - 6,300 school leaders
  - 18,000 schools – from all 50 states, DC, American military base schools, Canada, Mexico, Australia

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Why do schools, districts, states participate?

- To give stakeholders voice in national and state policy
- To collect unique data from stakeholders
  - Benchmark with national and state data
  - To inform programs, policies and purchases
  - High value of having an outside “unbiased guardian” collecting the data
- To support specific initiatives such as online learning, 1:1 programs or new teacher professional development programs
  - To validate direction and approach – pre and post
  - To build support
  - To generate new ideas
- To model for students the value of being part of the national discussion – civic engagement
- To be recognized as innovative and part of a national initiative
- To demonstrate to students, teachers and parents that their ideas are valued by their education leaders

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Speak Up is facilitated annually by Project Tomorrow (formerly known as NetDay)

Project Tomorrow is the nation’s leading education nonprofit organization dedicated to the empowerment of stakeholder voices in education.

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Speak Up 2008 survey question themes

- Learning & Teaching with Technology
- Web 2.0 in Education
- Broadband Access & Policy
- Information and Media Literacy Skills
- Science Instruction & Global Competitiveness
- Emerging Technologies in the Classroom
  - Mobile Devices
  - Online Learning
  - Digital Content
- Designing the 21st Century School

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National Speak Up 2008 Participation

- K-12 Students: 281,500
- Teachers: 29,644
- Parents (in English & Spanish): 21,309
- School/District Administrators: 3,114
- States: All 50

Top 10: TX, CA, AZ, AL, IL, MD, FL, NC, NE, WI

About Speak Up Schools:
- 95% public, 3% private, 2% virtual
- 35% urban, 32% suburban, 33% rural
- 45% Title 1 eligible
- 34% majority-minority student population

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Release of the Speak Up National Findings

Student, Teacher, Parent & Administrator Data Findings – updated annually

National Data Release

• March 24
• Congressional Briefing
• Washington DC
• Top level findings available online
• Other reports to follow

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We would like to recognize our Speak Up 2008 Sponsors:
We would like to also acknowledge the support of our Speak Up 2008 National Champion Outreach Partners:
Speak Up 2008 Data Findings
Pennsylvania students, teachers, & parents
Activities, Attitudes & Aspirations
Disconnects & Differences
Trends & Leverage Points

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National Speak Up 2008 Participation
Pennsylvania

- K-12 Students: 4,145
- Teachers: 500
- Parents: 721

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Key findings from Speak Up 2008 data:

“Digital disconnect” is alive & well:
 the gap between how
 today's students learn and
 how they live!

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Key findings from Speak Up 2008 data:

“Digital disconnect” is alive & well:
- Between students and teachers
- Between advanced tech students and other students
- Between girls and boys
- Between older and younger students

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Let’s get to know each other!

Audience Response
How would you assess your own technology skills compared to your peers?

A. Beginner
B. Average
C. Advanced

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Poll Statistics

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<th>Votes</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>35/75</td>
<td>46%</td>
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</table>
Parents, Teachers, Principals: What kind of tech user are you?

Self Assessment of Tech Skills

- **Principals**
  - Beginner
  - Average
  - Advanced

- **Teachers**
  - Beginner
  - Average
  - Advanced

- **Parents**
  - Beginner
  - Average
  - Advanced

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Audience Response:
What % of PA students in grades 6-12 consider themselves “advanced tech users?”

a. 5%
b. 25%
c. 70%

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Poll Statistics
How tech-savvy are today's students?

PA Students Self Assessment of Tech Skills

- 70% Advanced
- 25% Average
- 5% Beginner

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Besides Internet research and writing assignments, how are PA students using technology for schoolwork?

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How are PA teachers using technology for professional tasks?

Top responses:

- Communications: 95%
- Upload class information: 80%
- Conduct research: 79%
- Read text resources online: 65%
- Create/m/m presentations: 59%
- Create/upload media: 58%
- Listen/view media: 51%

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How are PA teachers using technology for professional tasks?

Top responses:

- Communications: 95%
- Upload class information: 80%
- Conduct research: 79%
- Read text resources online: 65%
- Create/m/m presentations: 59%
- Create/upload media: 58%
- Listen/view media: 51%

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How satisfied are PA students with technology use at their school?

Students say:

Not very!

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Besides time, what are the major obstacles **PA students** face using technology at your school?

*Top responses:*

1. **School filters and firewalls** block websites I need
2. **Teachers** limit our technology use
3. **Too many rules!**
   - Cannot use my own devices
   - Cannot access my communications tools
   - Rules that limit use of my school’s technology

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Besides time, what are the major obstacles **PA students** face using technology at your school?

**Bottom responses:**

1. I don’t have the skills I need
2. I am unable to access the Internet
3. Software is not good enough
4. Teachers don’t know how to use technology

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Besides time, what are the major obstacles PA teachers face using technology at your school?

Top responses:

1. Internet access is too slow
2. School filters and firewalls block websites I need
3. Computers are not available

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How satisfied are PA parents will tech use at their child’s school?

Rated as acceptable:

1. Internet safety
2. Amount of technology for student use
3. Tech skills my child learns

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How satisfied are PA parents will tech use at their child's school?

*Rated as unacceptable:*

1. Access to information
2. Amount of time my child spent using technology

16% - I don't know what technology is available at my child's school

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How schools could make it easier for PA students to work electronically?

Top responses from students:

1. Let me use my own laptop, cell phone or mobile device (69%)
2. Give me unlimited Internet access (55%)
3. Let me access my school projects from any computer - home or at school (49%)
4. Provide communications tools (47%)
5. Provide organization tools (41%)

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Digital Disconnect:

A new “battleground” with emerging technologies in education

- Mobile devices
- Digital content
- Online learning

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Digital Disconnect:

A new “battleground” with emerging technologies in education

- Mobile devices
  - Cell phones
  - Laptops
  - MP3 players
  - Smartphones & PDAs

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PA Students: Using Mobile Devices for Learning

Access to Mobile Devices

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How PA students want to use mobile devices to support learning

- **Communications**
  - Email teachers, classmates
  - Access personal websites

- **Collaborations**
  - Projects and calendars

- **Creativity**
  - Create/share documents, videos

- **Productivity**
  - Research, downloads, ed games
  - Get alerts and reminders

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How Pennsylvania students want to use mobile devices to support learning

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How PA students want to use mobile devices to support learning

Using Mobile Devices: Creativity

- Play ed games
- Create docs, videos, casts

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How PA students want to use mobile devices to support learning

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How PA students want to use mobile devices to support learning

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Digital Disconnect:
A new “battleground” with emerging technologies in education

- Online learning
  - Dedicated online class
  - Blended class
  - On own or through school

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Online learning and PA students

Current online learning experience:
14% of PA high school students
19% of PA middle school students

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Online learning and PA students

Is there interest in taking online classes? Yes!

Interest in taking an online class:
+ 33% of high school students
+ 31% of middle school students
+ 14% of students grades 3-5

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Audience Response:
What is the #1 reason *PA middle school students* want to take an online class?

a. Take class not offered at my school
b. Get extra help in a subject
c. Earn college credit
d. To fit my class schedule
e. To work at my own pace

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What is the #1 reason PA middle school students want to take an online class?

Why take an online class?

- Class availability
- Extra help
- Fit my schedule
- College credit
- Work at my pace

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How would online classes make school more interesting for PA middle school students?

1. In control of my learning (40%)
2. Easier to review class materials (32%)
3. Easier for me to succeed (32%)
4. More comfortable asking questions (31%)
5. More motivated to learn (28%)

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PA Teachers and online learning

35% say they have taken an online class for professional development

15% are interested in teaching an online class

26% are interested in using an LMS in their class

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PA Teachers and online professional development

Benefits of online professional development:

- Fits my schedule 56%
- Ability to customize learning 41%
- Review material as I need them 34%
- Saves time 26%

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Policy: Online class requirement for high school graduation?

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Digital Disconnect:
A new “battleground” with emerging technologies in education

- Digital Content
  - Designing an online textbook

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PA Students design an online textbook

Desired features:
- Electronic note taking and highlighting
- Self assessments
- Links to useful websites and data
- Animations/simulations to explain concepts
- Access to online tutors
- Powerpoint presentations of lectures
- Games to explore concepts/ideas

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PA Students design an online textbook

Features of an online textbook

Gr 9-12

Gr 6-8

Gr 3-5

- [ ] Education games
- [ ] Links to real time data
- [ ] Animations & simulations

0% 20% 40% 60% 80%

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PA Students and science

What activities outside of school increase your interest in science?

Top responses:

Visit science places
Learn about jobs and careers in science
Watch TV shows about science
Play computer games about science
Participate in research projects

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PA Students and STEM careers

What would increase your interest?

Top responses:

Meet with successful career professionals
College scholarships
Use tools professionals use
Day in the Life podcasts and videos

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Is *your school* doing a good job preparing students for the jobs of the 21st century?

Response: Yes

- PA Teachers 44%
- PA Parents 27%
- PA High School Students 35%

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What if you could design the ultimate school . . . .

what technologies would have the greatest impact on your learning?

Note: Many districts and states are using this data to inform stimulus funding decisions

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Audience Response:
What do PA students say is the #1 tech tool or service that will impact their learning?

a. Digital media tools for creating projects
b. Games and virtual simulations
c. Personal laptops for each student
d. Student access to email and IM at school
e. Using mobile devices like cellphones, MP3 players and PDAs

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What do students say is the #1 tech tool or service that will impact their learning?

Students in Kindergarten thru 12th grade say the same thing every year:

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What do students say is the #1 tech tool or service that will impact their learning?

Students in Kindergarten thru 12th grade say the same thing every year:

“Give me a laptop for my personal use at school and at home”

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What if you could design the ultimate school?

Designing the Ultimate School

- Internet access
- Student response
- Online classes
- Mobile devices
- Laptops
- Games & simulations
- Digital media tools
- Comm tools

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Speak Up Data Findings

Key trends to watch:

- Continuing “digital disconnects”
- Spectrum of digital native-ness
- Multiple “computers” in the backpack
- Embracing & adapting new technologies
- Anytime, anyplace, anywhere, any pace learning
- Self directed learning for student & teacher

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Speak Up Data Findings

Key trends to watch:

- Everyone is a content developer
- Make it relevant to me!
- Blend of informal & formal learning opps
- Beyond engagement to productivity benefits
- “Long tail” of training & education
- Here comes the Free Agent Learners!

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Special Speak Up 2008 Question

“Imagine you are the President and your #1 education goal is to make sure every student is prepared for the jobs and careers of the future. What is the one thing you would do to improve schools?”

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Special Speak Up 2008 Question

“Imagine you are the President and your #1 education goal is to make sure every student is prepared for the jobs and careers of the future. What is the one thing you would do to improve schools?”

over 250,000 responses from students nationwide!

Stay tuned . . .

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More Speak Up? www.tomorrow.org

Reports such as:


Inspiring the Next Generation of Innovators
Students, Teachers and Parents Speak Up about Science Education (June 2008)

Leadership in the 21st Century:
The New Visionary Administrator (October 2008)

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If you have any questions about Speak Up, please contact:

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