

Top 10 Reasons to Capture and Use Speak Up Data

NetDay Speak Up is an annual national research project that collects the voices and views of students, teachers, and parents on topics such as educational technology, science, math, and 21st century workforce skills. Results are shared free-of-charge with school communities to use in their own conversations about school planning and policies. This Top-10 list from participating schools describes the value to schools and districts in capturing and using Speak Up data.

1. Improve the learning environment by giving students a voice.

“Many students lack the confidence or the vocabulary to articulate their concerns directly to the school administration; the NetDay survey helps to create a bridge between the students who use the technology and the adults who manage it, creating a better learning environment for all.” (Michael J. Curtin, Fordham Preparatory School, Bronx, NY)

2. Make curriculum more dynamic and engaging.

“This information will be used to make our lessons more dynamic and exciting for the students by incorporating activities such as Gagle email, message boards, building websites, school chat rooms, and instant messaging to discuss topics covered in class and to extend the lesson outside the classroom.” (Kelly Schumacher, Wunderlich Intermediate, Houston, TX)

3. Optimize technology curriculum to meet student needs.

“Given the small amount of time available for direct instruction in the use of technology tools, it is essential that our curriculum does not waste time on teaching students what they already know [...] teachers need to have reliable information concerning expectations for student technology proficiency to plan appropriate lessons with the right mix of content and skills instruction.” (Celeste Estevez, Granby Memorial Middle, Granby, CT)

4. Gain support for initiatives with benchmarked data.

“Although we had a good sense of our need before completing the surveys, having the results tabulated clearly and concisely (and compared to national %) has given us the hard data we needed to support our mission.” (Tina Krouth, Whitehorse Middle School, Madison, WI)

5. Decide what purchases will have the most impact.

“The data helps to provide a realistic picture of our community and it helps the school evaluate and prioritize some of our needs when it comes to technology planning.” (Arthur C. Clarke, Bessemer City Central Elementary, Bessemer City, NC)



6. Write better grants based on research and needs analysis.

“Data has also been used to help support grants written for technology. Last year, McPherson implemented a student-owned laptop program at the middle school level. The data helped parents understand the value of technology supporting the educational program at school.” (Tara Saraye, McPherson Magnet School, Orange, CA)

7. Help teachers better understand student expectations.

“The survey provides information about the attitudes and ideas that both teachers and students have about technology. One of the most important pieces of information the survey has allowed us to explore is the different ways that teachers and students look at and use technology.” (Julia Barthelmes, Daniel Wright Elementary, Columbus, OH)

8. Have students analyze and present Speak Up Day results.

“These students assisted their classmates in taking the Net Day Speak Up surveys, and they're now analyzing the data themselves with the hope that the findings will be included in our school's Improvement Plan. They are the best advocates for the continued and improved funding of technology in elementary classrooms.” (Suzanne Martinez, Louis Pasteur Elementary School, Chicago IL)

9. Improve the connection between home and school.

“We now have an online school management system where parents and students can access grades. Something that may not have taken place as quickly as it did, if not for the ideas and help from our students.” (Carolyn Gardner, Calhan School District, Calhan, CO)

10. Tap into the experience and excitement of your students.

“They know how they learn best, and what kind of technology inspires them, and captures their attention. Why shouldn't we listen to them?” (Stephanie Danker, Rachel Carson Middle School, Herndon, VA)

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NetDay Speak Up is a national initiative of Project Tomorrow. Our mission is to support and promote the effective and appropriate use of science, math and technology resources in K–12 education so that every student has the opportunity to fully participate in today's global economy and community. We are dedicated to preparing today's students to be tomorrow's innovators, leaders and engaged citizens.