



Project  
Tomorrow



Speak UP

# Administrators "Speak Up" About Leveraging Technology to Drive Student Outcomes

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Special Webinar  
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## *Today's Discussion: The Big Questions*

- What are **top challenges** administrators face today?
- What **new technology solutions** do administrators believe will improve student outcomes?
- What can we learn from today's successful **online learning initiatives**?



## *Discussion Agenda:*

- Introducing the new white paper
- Key findings from the research
- Expert panel discussion
- Audience Q&A



## *Meet our Expert Panelists!*

*Rick Fast*

*Nevada School District, MO*

*Barbara Cruse*

*Washington Academy of Arts and Technology  
East Valley School District, Spokane, WA*

*Bruce Lovett*

*K12, Inc.*



*Introducing the new white paper:*



# ***Leveraging Technology to Close the Achievement Gap: A critical peer survey***

A special collaboration with



## *White paper goals:*

- *Examine Speak Up research*
- *Share insights from administrators*
- *Provide input and guidance into new discussions*



## *White paper methodology:*

- *Special analysis of Speak Up 2010 data from 3,578 administrators*
- *Input from K12 clients*
- *1st in a series of special Speak Up white papers*

# Speak Up National Research Project

## Annual national research project

- Online surveys + focus groups
- Open for all K-12 schools and schools of education
- Institutions receive free report with their own data

## Collect ideas ↔ Stimulate conversations

- K-12 Students, Teachers, Parents, Administrators
- Pre-Service Teachers in Schools of Education

## Inform policies & programs

- Analysis and reporting of findings and trends
- Consulting services to help transform teaching and learning





# Speak Up National Research Project

## Empowering authentic voices – since 2003:

- 1.9 million K-12 students
- 180,000 teachers and librarians
- 124,000 parents
- 15,500 school and district leaders
- 30,000 K-12 schools – from all 50 states, DC, American military base schools, Canada, Mexico, Australia, int'l schools . . .



**2.2 million respondents**

# Speak Up National Research Project



## *A sampling of Speak Up data from Administrators:*

- Administrators' challenges
- Solutions that will drive greater student outcomes
- Audiences for online learning
- Approaches to providing online learning
- Value proposition of online learning



# ***Leveraging Technology to Close the Achievement Gap: A critical peer survey***

## **Key Findings**



# What are your top challenges?

*Besides funding concerns ..... administrators say:*

Administrators' Top Priority Challenges	School Site Administrators	District Office Administration
Closing the achievement gap	41%	26%
Addressing student behavior and attendance issues	34%	11%
Serving diverse student populations	21%	17%
Increasing high school graduation rates	13%	15%



## Why new interest in tech solutions?



*Administrators are increasingly interested in tech solutions*

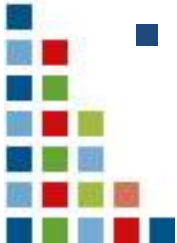
1. Administrators are more tech-enabled
2. New demands from students and parents for tech learning environments
3. Financial and budget pressures



## How to improve student outcomes?

*Besides traditional approaches ..... administrators say:*

- Leveraging technology for seamless learning in/out of school
- Implementing mobile learning initiatives
- Setting up a virtual school
- Providing access to online courses
- Digital textbooks
- Using data to track student performance



# Advantages of online learning

*Per administrators, two primary benefit categories:*

1. Addressing the diverse learning needs of particular student populations
2. Achieving specific desired instructional outcomes



# Advantages of online learning

Address needs of specific student populations	Administrators
Remediation	32%
Scheduling	30%
At-risk students	24%
Homebound students	16%
Dual enrollment / college credit	16%
Advanced Placement courses	12%
Gifted students	11%
After school	10%



# Advantages of online learning

Facilitate key instructional outcomes	Administrators
Increase student engagement	39%
Increase graduation rates	34%
Increase personalization	13%
Fill hard-to-staff courses	12%
Provide a consistent curriculum	5%



# Creating New Models: Case Studies



**Broward Virtual School – Fort Lauderdale FL**  
*Better Assessment, Better Individualization, Better Test Results*

**The Youth Connection Charter School Virtual High School**  
*A Solution for Dropouts*

**East Valley School District – Spokane WA**  
*Serving Multiple Needs in a Rural District*

**Nevada School District – Nevada MO**  
*Early Intervention*

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# *Leveraging Technology to Close the Achievement Gap: A critical peer survey*

Special thank you to:



# Is your school participating in Speak Up 2011?



New online surveys for students,  
parents & educators open for input:

**October 10 - December 23**

Data back to schools & districts:

**February 2012**

**Learn more at**

**[www.tomorrow.org](http://www.tomorrow.org)**

*Enable, engage, empower  
your stakeholder voices!*



Thank you.  
Let's continue this conversation.

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