From Chalkboards to Tablets: The Emergence of the K-12 Digital Learner: Speak Up 2012 National Findings K-12 Students

http://tomorrow.org/speakup/SU12_DigitalLearners_StudentReport.html

From Chalkboards to Tablets: The Emergence of the K-12 Digital Learner is the second in a two part series to document the key national findings from Speak Up 2012. In 2003, The Speak Up National Research Project was born to give K-12 students a voice in critical conversations, and to hopefully provide their parents, teachers and administrators with new insights about the expectations and aspirations of these newly minted digital learners. Now in its tenth year, the annual Speak Up National Research Project and the resulting trends analysis provides a birds’ eye view of the changing environment for digital learning, both in and out of school.

As the digital learner has emerged over the past ten years, we have noticed a significant shift in the student perspective on using technology for learning. To bring new insights and context to this digital learning metamorphosis, “From Chalkboards to Tablets: The Emergence of the K-12 Digital Learner” examines the current views of students from Kindergarten through 12th grade with a special look at digital learners in third, sixth, ninth and twelfth grades. Where appropriate we compare the ideas of this year’s digital learners with their predecessors over the past ten years. Most importantly, in honor of the over 2.5 million K-12 students who have shared their hopes and dreams for digital learning through the Speak Up project over the past ten years, we address these critical questions with this new report:

- What is the students’ vision for digital learning today and how has that vision evolved over the past ten years?
- How well are we meeting the current aspirations and expectations of our students, Kindergarten through 12th Grade, for using emerging technologies to personalize their learning process?
- What can we learn from the emergence of the digital learner that can impact the future of education?

Key Findings from this year’s report include:

- With smartphone usage dramatically on the rise - 65 percent of students in grades 6-8 and 80 percent of students in grades 9-12 are smartphone users – a main concern among today’s digital learners is how to leverage the unique features of different devices, from laptops to smartphones to tablets or digital readers, and use them for certain academic tasks.
- While only 21% of teachers in middle and high schools are assigning Internet homework on a weekly basis, 69% of high school seniors, 61% of high school freshman and 47% of 6th graders are online at least weekly to find resources to support their homework.
- In just one year, the number of middle school students with a personally acquired, digital reader more than doubled from 17 percent in 2011 to 39 percent in 2012.
- In fall 2011, 26 percent of students in grades 6-8 said that they had a personal tablet computer. In one year’s time, the percentage of middle school students with tablets jumped to 52 percent, a doubling over the 2011 percentage.
- Despite this increase of mobile devices in the hands of students, schools are still reluctant to allow them. Among high school students with smartphones, only half say they can use their device at school and only nine percent of students say they can use their personal tablets at school. With 73 percentage of high school seniors saying they have a laptop, only 18 percent of the Class of 2013 say they are allowed to use their personal laptop at school.

To download the PDF of the report
http://tomorrow.org/speakup/pdfs/SU12-Students.pdf

To download a copy of the first Educator and Parent Report data:
You can watch this inspiring TED talk here: http://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion.html

I have spent my entire life either at the schoolhouse, on the way to the schoolhouse, or talking about what happens in the schoolhouse. Both my parents were educators, my maternal grandparents were educators, and for the past 40 years I’ve done the same thing. And so, needless to say, over those years I’ve had a chance to look at education reform from a lot of perspectives. Some of those reforms have been good. Some of them have been not so good. And we know why kids drop out. We know why kids don’t learn. It’s either poverty, low attendance, negative peer influences. We know why. But one of the things that we never discuss or we rarely discuss is the value and importance of human connection, relationships.

James Comer says that no significant learning can occur without a significant relationship. George Washington Carver says all learning is understanding relationships. Everyone in this room has been affected by a teacher or an adult. For years, I have watched people teach. I have looked at the best and I’ve look at some of the worst.

A colleague said to me one time, “They don’t pay me to like the kids. They pay me to teach a lesson. The kids should learn it. I should teach it. They should learn it. Case closed.”

Well, I said to her, “You know, kids don’t learn from people they don’t like.”

(Laughter) (Applause)

She said, “That’s just a bunch of hooey.”

And I said to her, “Well, your year is going to be long and arduous, dear.”

Needless to say it was. Some people think that you can either have it in you to build a relationship or you don’t. I think Stephen Covey had the right idea. He said you ought to just throw in a few simple things, like seeking first to understand as opposed to being understood, simple things like apologizing. You ever thought about that? Tell a kid you’re sorry, they’re in shock.

I taught a lesson once on ratios. I’m not real good with math, but I was working on it. And I got back and looked at that teacher edition. I’d taught the whole lesson wrong. (Laughter)

So I came back to class the next day, and I said, “Look, guys, I need to apologize. I taught the whole lesson wrong. I’m so sorry.”

They said, “That’s okay, Ms. Pierson. You were so excited, we just let you go.” (Laughter) (Applause)

I have had classes that were so low, so academically deficient that I cried. I wondered, how am I going to take this group in nine months from where they are to where they need to be? And it was difficult. It was awfully hard. How do I raise the self-esteem of a child and his academic achievement at the same time?

One year I came up with a bright idea. I told all my students, “You were chosen to be in my class because I am the best teacher and you are the best students, they put us all together so we could show everybody else how to do it.”

One of the students said, “Really?” (Laughter)

I said, “Really. We have to show the other classes how to do it, so when we walk down the hall, people will notice us, so you can’t make noise. You just have to strut.” And I gave them a saying to say: “I am somebody. I was somebody when I came. I’ll be a better somebody when I leave. I am powerful, and I am strong. I deserve the education that I get here. I have things to do, people to impress, and places to go.”

And they said, “Yeah!”

You say it long enough, it starts to be a part of you.

And so — (Applause) I gave a quiz, 20 questions. A student missed 18. I put a “+2” on his paper and a big smiley face.

He said, “Ms. Pierson, is this an F?”

I said, “Yes.”

He said, “Then why’d you put a smiley face?”
I said, “Because you’re on a roll. You got two right. You didn’t miss them all.” I said, “And when we review this, won’t you do better?”

He said, “Yes, ma’am, I can do better.”

You see, “−18” sucks all the life out of you. “+2” said, “I ain’t all bad.” (Laughter) (Applause)

For years I watched my mother take the time at recess to review, go on home visits in the afternoon, buy combs and brushes and peanut butter and crackers to put in her desk drawer for kids that needed to eat, and a washcloth and some soap for the kids who didn’t smell so good. See, it’s hard to teach kids who stink. And kids can be cruel. And so she kept those things in her desk, and years later, after she retired, I watched some of those same kids come through and say to her, “You know, Ms. Walker, you made a difference in my life. You made it work for me. You made me feel like I was somebody, when I knew, at the bottom, I wasn’t. And I want you to just see what I’ve become.”

And when my mama died two years ago at 92, there were so many former students at her funeral, it brought tears to my eyes, not because she was gone, but because she left a legacy of relationships that could never disappear.

Can we stand to have more relationships? Absolutely. Will you like all your children? Of course not. And you know your toughest kids are never absent. (Laughter) Never. You won’t like them all, and the tough ones show up for a reason. It’s the connection. It’s the relationships. And while you won’t like them all, the key is, they can never, ever know it. So teachers become great actors and great actresses, and we come to work when we don’t feel like it, and we’re listening to policy that doesn’t make sense, and we teach anyway. We teach anyway, because that’s what we do.

Teaching and learning should bring joy. How powerful would our world be if we had kids who were not afraid to take risks, who were not afraid to think, and who had a champion? Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.

Is this job tough? You betcha. Oh God, you betcha. But it is not impossible. We can do this. We’re educators. We’re born to make a difference.

Thank you so much.

Rita F. Pierson, a professional educator since 1972, has taught elementary school, junior high and special education. She’s been a counselor, a testing coordinator and an assistant principal. For the past decade, Pierson has conducted professional development workshops and seminars for thousands of educators. Focusing on the students who are too often under-served, she lectures on topics like “Helping Under-Resourced Learners,” “Meeting the Educational Needs of African American Boys” and “Engage and Graduate your Secondary Students: Preventing Dropouts.”
Slidely - Create beautiful instant videos from the photos and music you love

http://slide.ly/

Slidely is a free, easy-to-use creative suite of cloud-based web and mobile apps, empowering artistic expression with images, video and music. Start with your favorite personal images and video, mix in media from friends' social accounts and the broader web, and add music from YouTube and SoundCloud to unlock the emotional essence of any story – then, share it with friends or the whole world. Projects move seamlessly from one Slidely app to the next and are forever editable, allowing your artistic voice to come through loud and clear. For more information, visit www.slide.ly.

Social media savvy readers will want to know about a new, free tool from Slidely (http://slide.ly) that turbocharges their online slideshows – allowing them not just to use their own images from Facebook, Instagram, FLICKR, Picasa or their PC, but also surprise friends & family with images from Facebook friends' albums, public Instagrams (via hashtag search), and shots from Google Images.

Unlike other services, Slidely lets you import images from your friends FB accounts or the broader web directly to your slideshows in one simple step, keeping you in the creative flow. There's no need to download them to your PC first, then do a 2nd step of importing them. Music can be added in one-step via YouTube, SoundCloud or by PC upload. Here are some examples how Slidely can help capture the moment this season:

• Elementary school teachers could make moving end-of-the-term recap video slideshows to show on the last day of class, capping the year with emotional affection – like this: http://slides.ly/14N6kMg; Middle school teachers could make a "restless student lesson plan" for the last week of classes – putting a twist on the What I Did Last Summer report by having kids make & present What I’m Gonna Do This Summer slideshows.

• Groups of best friends could immortalize their Besties in slideshows before going their separate ways for the summer. Or, if you’re graduating after having gone to school together with someone since kindergarten, a touching keepsake video idea for a friend would be to use all their yearbook photos from K-12 in a slideshow.

Some other slide show and video presentation sites to check out:

Slideshare: Upload powerpoints to share with others.
http://www.slideshare.net/

Animoto: upload a video - Animoto analyses the video, feels the music, customises the video. Publish to any webpage. Educators can apply for a free Animoto Plus account for use in the classroom. Its powerful features can be used to create stunning presentations incorporating images, video clips, music and text.
http://animoto.com/education/classroom

http://www.vuvox.com/
The Siemens Competition - STEM - This year’s program will offer scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $100,000.

The Siemens Foundation, in partnership with the College Board, established the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology and the Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement. The Siemens Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to providing scholarships and increasing access to higher education for talented mathematics, science, engineering and technology students in the United States.

The Siemens Competition seeks to promote excellence by encouraging students to undertake individual or team research projects. It fosters intensive research that improves students' understanding of the value of scientific study and informs their consideration of future careers in these disciplines.

You can compete as an individual or as a member of a team. Individual projects promote independent research. Team projects foster collaborative research efforts, as well as individual contributions to the cooperative endeavor. Scholarships for winning projects range from $1,000 to $100,000.

The application period for the awards is open now. Applications are due Sept. 30.

DIY Podcast -- Tutorial Videos

Are you tired of struggling to find new ways to integrate technology into your curriculum? NASA's Do-It-Yourself Podcast website is the place to begin: It offers free public-domain resources to help you and your students build your own podcasts. With DIY Podcast, you and your students can start creating podcast files immediately.

Building podcasts supports national education standards in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, disciplines. The process also supports different learning styles. The auditory and visual learners can listen to and watch their podcasts to review the content and learn even more. The kinesthetic learner can perform demonstrations to add to the video. And because they are in the starring roles, students will watch/listen to the podcast repeatedly. The repetition reinforces the content.

NASA offers six video tutorials to show educators and students how easy it is to make podcasts and vodcasts. In just minutes, we show you how to create audio and video podcast files with the free video clips, audio tracks and images on the DIY Podcast site. The six-video series comprises:

- What Is a Podcast?
- DIY Podcast Tour
- Viewing and Downloading Video Clips
- Listening to and Downloading Audio Clips
- Building an Audio Podcast
- Building a Video Podcast

The series provides time-saving tips for helping students create podcasts and explains the benefits of using podcasts as an educational tool. You can find additional techniques and tips on the DIY Podcast Blog. Visit today to learn how you and your students can make podcasts -- all it takes is a few minutes!

NASA's DIY Podcast Tutorial Videos
http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/diypodcast/tutorials-index-diy.html

NASA's DIY Podcast Blog
http://blogs.nasa.gov/cm/newui/blog/viewpostlist.jsp?blogname=diyPodcastBlog
National Geographic FOUND - Resource of previously unpublished National Geographic photos...

http://natgeofound.tumblr.com/

FOUND is a curated collection of photography from the National Geographic archives. In honor of our 125th anniversary, we are showcasing photographs that reveal cultures and moments of the past. Many of these photos have never been published and are rarely seen by the public.

We hope to bring new life to these images by sharing them with audiences far and wide. Their beauty has been lost to the outside world for years and many of the images are missing their original date or location.

Free Android App - Common Core Standards


View the Common Core state standards in one convenient FREE app! This app includes a simple way to view each Common Core standard. A great reference for parents and teachers to easily read and understand the core standards. Quickly find standards by subject, grade, and subject category (domain/cluster). This app currently includes Math standards K-12 and Language Arts standards K-12.

To learn more about MasteryConnect’s free web-based solution for teachers to track common core standards and parents to follow along, check out www.masteryconnect.com

Free iOS App - Common Core Standards


View the Common Core State Standards in one convenient FREE app! A great reference for students, parents, and teachers to easily read and understand the core standards. Quickly find standards by subject, grade, and subject category (domain/cluster). This app includes Math standards K-12 and Language Arts standards K-12. Math standards include both traditional and integrated pathways (as outlined in Appendix A of the common core) and synthesizes Language Arts standards with the Corresponding College and Career Readiness Standards (CCR's).
Check out these apps! They’re free (at least they were the last time I checked)!!!

**Max Mayfield’s Hurricane Tracker**

Max Mayfield is the former Director of the National Hurricane Center. This app provides the latest and most accurate information about severe weather where you live to help you keep your family safe. And the best part is it’s FREE.

- Projected Hurricane Paths
- Interactive Live Radar
- Live Local 10 news storm coverage
- Severe Weather Alerts
- Tropical Weather Outlooks
- Watches and Warnings

Powered by the hurricane experts at JustWeather.com and Local 10.

This hurricane season be prepared with JustWeather.com Hurricane app!

**Vyclone (Social video creation of multi-angle videos)**

Now you can mix film taken on your iPhone with footage taken by other people filming the same events. Just shoot something with your friends; Vyclone does the rest. In a few moments it synchronizes and edits everyone’s clips to create one movie with all the angles cut together. You get the raw footage too. So if you like, you can remix it to make your own director’s cut. And when you’re happy with your masterpiece, Vyclone makes it easy to share. It’s filming genius.

**App Hits for the iPad**

Find the FREE apps you want FAST! App Hits helps you discover the latest and hottest apps for your iPad in no time. Grab the best deals on apps and never miss a sale again!

DISCOVER YOUR NEXT FAVORITE APP

In App Hits, it’s easy to find the perfect app. Pick a list to start, ranging from what’s new, hot, on sale, free or in the App Store’s Top 100.

To zero in on just the apps you want, you can even filter and sort your list. Want to see just free apps? In a category? Sorted by number of stars? It’s easy in App Hits.

Tapping on an app will quickly load the full details and description. You’ll also see important statistics, including recent rankings and price changes - to help you make an informed buying decision.

Information on apps is refreshed hourly to give you the latest price and rank changes.

Check out more great resources on the TeacherLINK blog!
http://teacherlinkyetc.blogspot.com
Open Library - a user-based online catalog of books, and you can borrow too!

http://openlibrary.org/

About the Project: Open Library is an open, editable library catalog, building towards a web page for every book ever published. Just like Wikipedia, you can contribute new information or corrections to the catalog. You can browse by subject, author or lists members have created. If you love books, why not help build a library?

Open Library also have ebooks you can read online or borrow... Up to 5 titles for 2 weeks each, either in-browser or as a PDF or ePub.

Open Library account holders can borrow an eBook from the growing collection of mainly 20th Century titles available now. Each title can be borrowed by one patron at once, and you can read it in a web browser, or in Adobe Digital Editions as a PDF or ePub. More information at http://openlibrary.org/borrow/about

There are a few different types of Borrow links, just FYI:

In-Library Loans

There’s a growing, cooperative pool of eBooks contributed by 1,000 libraries* participating in the In-Library Lending program.

Head to any of the libraries in the pool, log in to the WiFi, and you’ll get access to a special set of over 200,000 eBooks. It’s like an instant, hassle-free interlibrary eBook loan!

Don’t forget we also have over a million free eBooks available for reading online right now!

Open Lending

Any Open Library account holder around the world can borrow from a smaller collection of about 10,000 eBooks. Brought to you by the Internet Archive and its partner libraries.

WorldCat

If we can’t offer an eBook to borrow, we link into the WorldCat catalog to help you find a copy to borrow from a library near you.

OverDrive - We’ve worked with OverDrive.com to connect our records into their local library eBook lending program. Here’s a search to get you started… http://openlibrary.org/search?sort=new&subject_facet=overdrive
Environment Something To ‘Shout’ About

http://www.smithsonianconference.org/shout/

Excited about environmental science? Grab your mouse and surf on over to the Smithsonian Shout Online Conference Series. “Shout” invites educators and students to connect online with experts in the field and collaborate with people around the world.

Online events hosted by the Smithsonian Institution feature some of the world’s leading scientists and environmental experts. Access to Microsoft’s Partners in Learning Network, a global community of educators, allows school partners to share environmental education resources, experiences, and best practices. TakingITGlobal’s online community provides students with resources, including content-rich virtual classrooms and collaboration spaces designed to deepen environmental understanding.

Learn how Shout connects students and teachers to live events, teacher networking, and student collaborations - and presents students with challenges designed to deepen their learning and engagement.

Encourage Your Students To Be Junior Paleontologists

The National Park Service’s Junior Paleontologist program seeks to engage young people in activities that allow them to discover the significance of fossils and the science of paleontology, introduces them to the national park system, and to the mission of the National Park Service.

Besides learning about Earth’s history, ancient life, and past changes to climate and environments, Junior Paleontologists explore the ways paleontologists work and protect fossils found in more than 230 national park areas that preserve these scientific resources. This is a great way to prepare for the third annual National Fossil Day, taking place on Wednesday, October 16, during Earth Science Week 2013 (October 13-19).

The Junior Paleontologist Program is a part of the National Park Service Junior Ranger Program, which aims to connect young people to their national parks. Download the Junior Paleontologist Activity Booklet for children ages 5 to 12 at http://nature.nps.gov/education/nationalfossilday/jrpaleo.cfm.

Online Videos Show ‘Faces of Climate Change’

Three short online videos depict the dramatic changes in Alaska’s marine ecosystems through interviews with scientists and Alaska natives. The videos were produced by the Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Alaska, the Alaska Sea Grant program, the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, and the Alaska Ocean Observing System.

Some Fun Education Websites That You May Not Know About...

**Planetarium**

http://neave.com/planetarium/

![Planetarium Image](image)

**Alien Earths - Build Your Own Solar System - Test Out Gravity**

http://www.alieneartshs.org/online/interactives/planet_families/index.php

This is a fun, interactive gravity simulation tool. You can drag planets and stars from the “toolbox” at the top of the screen, and they start revolving around the central sun. Depending where you place them, they will either achieve stable orbits, or gravity may fling them out of the system altogether, or worse - be destroyed. Go play around with gravity!

![Alien Earths Image](image)

**Strike Star - U.S. Lightning Activity**


StrikeStar is client/server system, exclusively designed for the NexStorm software and Boltek hardware. StrikeStar allows multiple, standalone lightning detectors to form a real-time lightning locator network with much better positional accuracy.

StrikeStarUS is a public, large scale and community based lightning detection network that we have made available as a unique added-value program for users of our NexStorm software.

![Strike Star Image](image)

**Experience the Planets Project**

http://experiencetheplanets.com/

From the sun’s roiling surface to the icy realms beyond Pluto, our solar system is filled with wonders just waiting to be seen. The Experience the Planets project is collective effort to illustrate these wonders, weaving art and science together and sharing the results with the world.

![Experience the Planets Image](image)
This course aims to teach students basic concepts in electronics. By the end of this course, students are expected to understand terms such as electricity, voltages, currents, and integrated circuits.

An engaging electronic lab is incorporated to provide the users the autonomy to create their own circuits and apply their learning from the lesson proper.

VSB History

The History VSB Course starts with the Congress of Vienna in 1814. It works its way through the Revolution of 1848, the Crimean War in 1853, the Austro Prussian War in 1866 and ends with the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. This marks the end of the “Concert of Europe” and the end of the agreements reached at the Congress of Vienna in 1815.

VSB Music Theory

The Music Theory VSB Course is designed to give students a basic knowledge and understanding of music fundamentals that are essential in analyzing and writing musical compositions. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify musical notations, chords, time signatures, and intervals as well as play notes on an interactive piano simulation game.

VSB Music History

The Music History VSB Course will deepen your knowledge and understanding of music within a historical context. It will discuss the foundations of Western Music and is designed to help develop techniques through a study of the different exemplary composers and their compositions, eras, and genres of the western stylistic periods.

VSB Art History
https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/vsb-art-history/id596672892?mt=8

In this module we concentrate on the philosophies, inspirations, and styles of Western art. Examples of Realism, Cubism, Impressionism, Expressionism, and Fauvism will be shown and discussed.

VSB R.O.T.C
https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/vsb-r.o.t.c./id596665092?mt=8

This is a class dedicated to the Reserve Officers Training Corps. It will broaden your comprehension and appreciation of the U.S. Military. Basic military principles are explained, using engaging videos, interactive game simulations, and lectures.
The Physical Education VSB Course will explain the importance of staying in shape and having a fit and healthy body. It will discuss fun athletic sports, such as, basketball, tennis, and track and field, to name a few. It will also give some historical background on where these sports originated.

The Iliad VSB Course discusses one of the most famous poems in Western Civilization. The work is attributed to Homer, an ancient Greek epic poet. The Iliad was actually sung and passed down through generations and is one of the most important historical literary pieces of work. To understand literature, one must first understand the Iliad.

The Mathematics VSB Course will discuss topics in Algebra. The first lesson will lay the groundwork for all succeeding lessons, by familiarizing the user with definitions and notations that will be used throughout the course.

This Virtual Smart Book (VSB) for Computer Science aims to introduce and teach many key concepts in Computer Science including the computer systems life cycle, software development, language translators, computer architecture, networking, data representation, errors, and utility software. It also aims to teach Java programming, covering such topics as identifiers, operators, control structures, classes, objects, inheritance, polymorphism, and arrays.

The Odyssey VSB Course discusses the Odyssey, the sequel to the Iliad, which was composed at about the same time, 1000 B.C.E. The Odyssey is the story of two journeys. One story is that of Odysseus, the wily Greek who hatched the plan of the Trojan horse — a story of sword and sorcery. The other is a coming of age story. That of Odysseus’ son Telemachus, and his journey from boyhood to manhood.

The Utah Coalition for Educational Technology
http://ucet.org and their blog http://ucetnews.blogspot.com