

5 Ways to Maximize Edtech and increase school-wide engagement

Promethean®

Gallup found engaged students are 2.5 times more likely to say they get excellent grades and do well in school and are 4.5 times more likely to be hopeful about the future than their disengaged peers.

Today's K-12 edtech tools are abundant – from cutting-edge computing and cloud services to data-driven instruction and adaptive learning. Here are five ways to ensure your district is maximizing its edtech investment and engaging students, while meeting today's education challenges:



1 Research reaps (edtech) rewards

It's tempting to make up your mind about which solution to invest in before the search has truly started. However, remember to try before you buy.

Southeast Lauderdale High School, for instance, tested different interactive displays before investing. Several vendors presented their solutions to the district in Meridian, Miss. The team evaluating the options were able to see first-hand which systems lacked reliability, interactivity, and integrability and which systems demonstrated superior functionality, sustainability, and ease of use.

2 Houston, we have a plan

Build an edtech plan and stick to it. Before committing to its own edtech investment, Aldine Independent School District sought information from other districts.

Administrators involved in upgrading technology attended conferences to learn about available edtech and find out what was working well for their peers. The Houston school district's plan included strengthening network connectivity infrastructure and updating the curriculum to incorporate its new technology. All of its updates culminated in a five-year plan outlining its overall goals.

3 It's training time

Teachers must be comfortable with the edtech tools in their classrooms. Professional development provides many benefits, including sharpening teachers' collective skills, expanding their knowledge base, boosting confidence and setting and achieving goals.

Southeast Lauderdale High School prioritized technology-based training, which has helped ease the discomfort some teachers experienced using new tools. Plans to bring tech into the classroom included on-site learning from Promethean coaches, as well as an exchange of teacher tips and tricks on ways to use the new system.

4 Measure success

Collect testimonials from teachers and students to help measure edtech success. Identifying quantitative performance metrics is also helpful in gauging the impact of student achievement and engagement. California's Palmdale School District did just that.

In its annual district technology survey, Palmdale administrators found after adopting Promethean panels in their classrooms, district-wide student engagement increased an average of 22 percent, with a few sites reporting more than a 40 percent increase. Information like this helps boost in-classroom performance and allows schools and districts to make a case for continuing to evolve classroom technology.

5 Encourage student innovation

Encourage students to be creative and innovative with edtech. Tech tools help make learning more interactive and collaborative, which helps students engage better with course material, fellow students, and their teachers.

Students at Byram Hills Central School District have access to an innovative technology lab called Hub21 where they're immersed in STEAM concepts that complement everyday curriculums, including coding, robotics, and makerspaces. Experiences at Hub21 are challenging, explorative, and make tech-based learning fun.

Before you go...

We know that introducing classroom technology is an enormous undertaking and a huge investment. By keeping these five tips in mind, you can be assured your school or district maximizes your edtech investment and boosts engagement of students, teachers, and parents, too.

Learn more about maximizing your classroom technology [here](#).