



Parents' And Teachers' Attitudes And Opinions On Technology In Education

Key findings from quantitative research
Conducted August 2012
for the



Methodology

- ◆ Nationwide online survey among 812 K-12 public school teachers, conducted August 9 – 15, 2012
- ◆ Nationwide telephone survey among 883 parents of K-12 public school children, including an over-sample among low-income parents, conducted August 7 – 13, 2012

Key Takeaways

- ◆ Parents and teachers alike recognize that the world has changed and, as a part of that, so have the things students need to learn to be prepared for the future. Moreover, they believe that technology is increasingly important to prepare young people for the future.
- ◆ The prevailing view among both audiences is that America's public schools have some catching up to do in their use of technology. Indeed, most believe that our schools are behind the curve compared to other parts of our economy, and also compared to how they envisage using technology to educate our children.
- ◆ Strong majorities of both teachers and parents believe that additional investments in technology by local schools, states, and the federal government are worthwhile. When it comes to making the best use of resources, large majorities of teachers and parents say that it is better to invest in Web-connected devices for each student than in new science textbooks.
- ◆ Both audiences are troubled by the potential consequences of their children's schools not keeping up.

Key Takeaways

- ◆ Teachers and parents believe that technology can play a very helpful role in addressing many of the most important goals for improving education today, particularly with regard to these items:
 - providing more individualized and flexible learning,
 - offering more hands-on learning opportunities
 - helping students become more engaged in their own learning
 - making closer connections between the classroom and the real world
 - exposing students to experts outside the classroom and different perspectives on issues

- ◆ Teachers and parents alike also recognize the contribution that technology can make in helping teachers provide faster feedback to students.

Key Takeaways

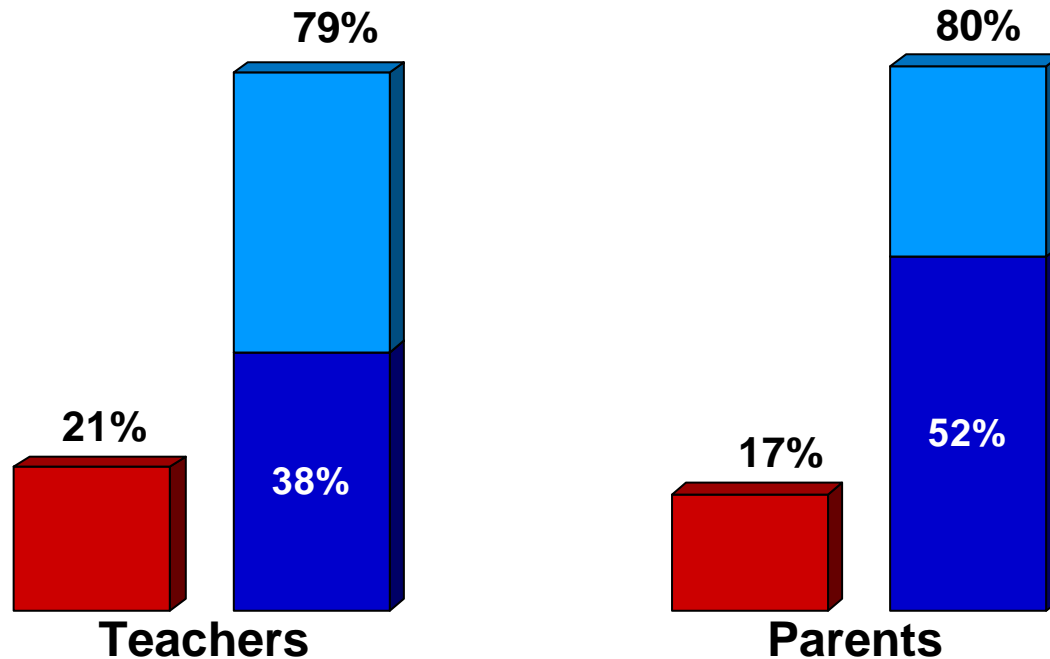
- ◆ Large majorities of both teachers and parents report that their local school districts should be doing more to reap the most valuable benefits that technology can offer to improve learning for students. The gap between what technology can do and how it currently is being used is particularly significant with regard to the following:
 - providing opportunities for students to share their work with and obtain feedback from a wide audience
 - leveling the playing field for all students
 - connecting learning that occurs inside and outside the classroom
 - and tailoring learning to students' unique personal needs and interests
- ◆ Teachers and parents also recognize the role technology can play in improving teacher effectiveness and therefore student learning by connecting teachers to content, tools, resources, and different methods of teaching, helping them to track student performance, and improve communication with parents and peers.

Key Takeaways

- ◆ Low-income parents and teachers at low-income schools recognize the tremendous potential of technology in education. Low-income parents place a greater emphasis on the importance of schools' making good use of technology in educating their children, perhaps because they are least likely to have access to the Internet and broadband in their homes.
- ◆ And while teachers clearly see the promise of technology in improving our education system, most believe they are not receiving the training they need to use it to its fullest potential.
- ◆ Home access to broadband is viewed as important to learning and doing well in school, and parents and teachers believe that students who do not have broadband are at a disadvantage.

Parents and teachers recognize that the world has changed and, as part of that, so have the things students need to learn to be prepared for the future.

To be prepared for success in the future and the jobs of the 21st century, the kinds of things a student needs to learn today are:

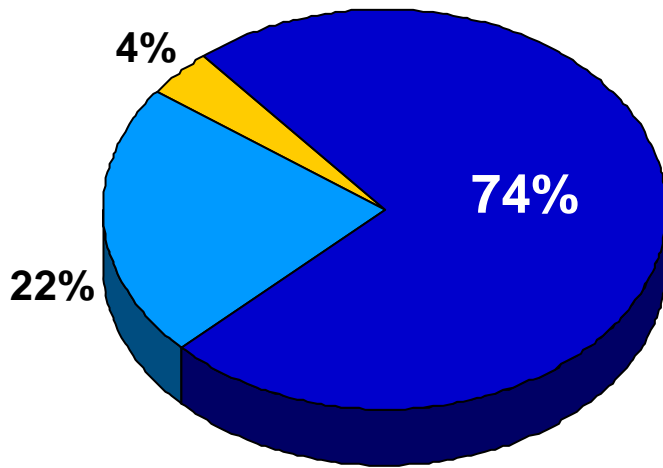


Parents and teachers overwhelmingly believe it is important for schools to make good use of technology in educating students

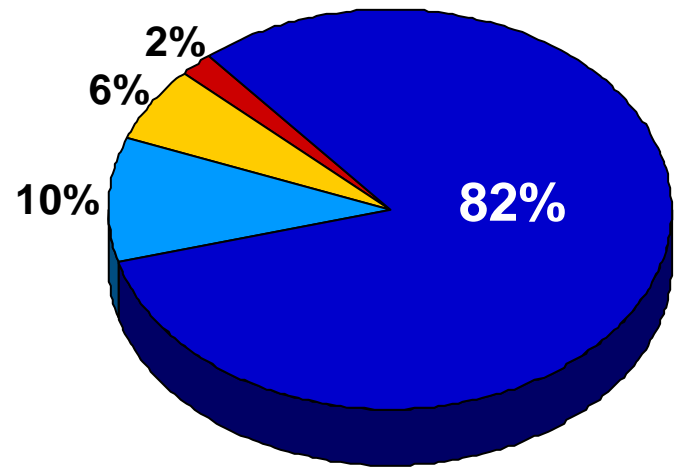
How important is it for schools to make good use of technology in the education of students today?



Teachers

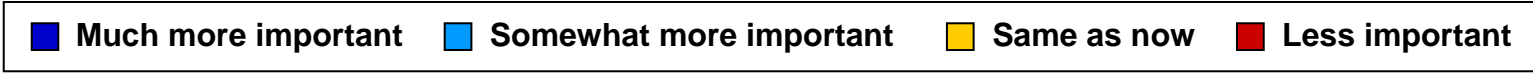


Parents

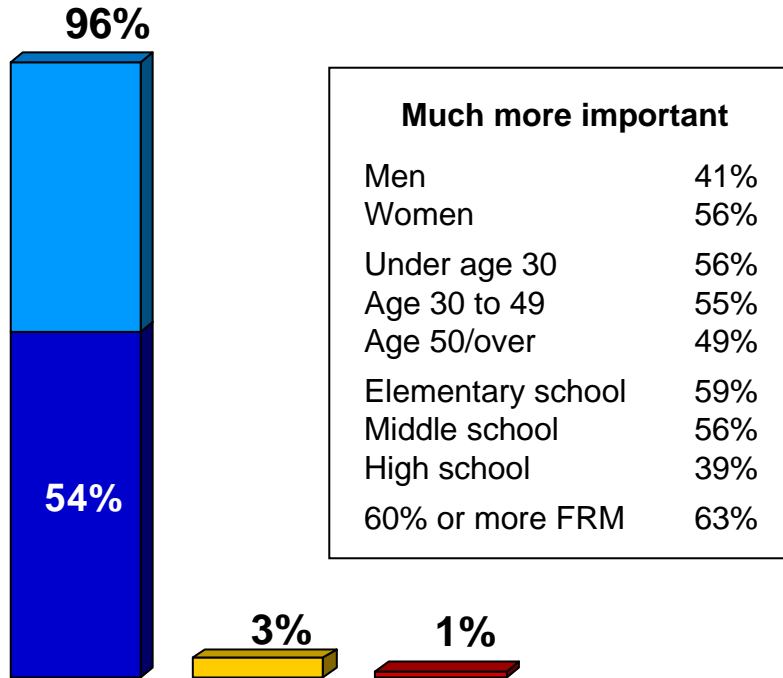


Looking ahead, there is broad recognition that technology will be increasingly important in preparing young people for their future.

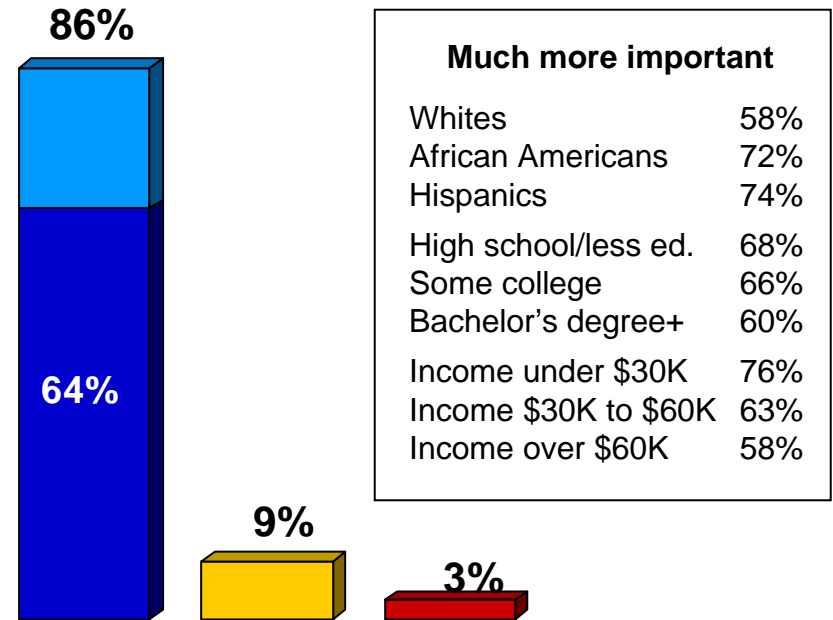
Looking ahead 10 years or so, the role of technology in educating students will become:



Teachers

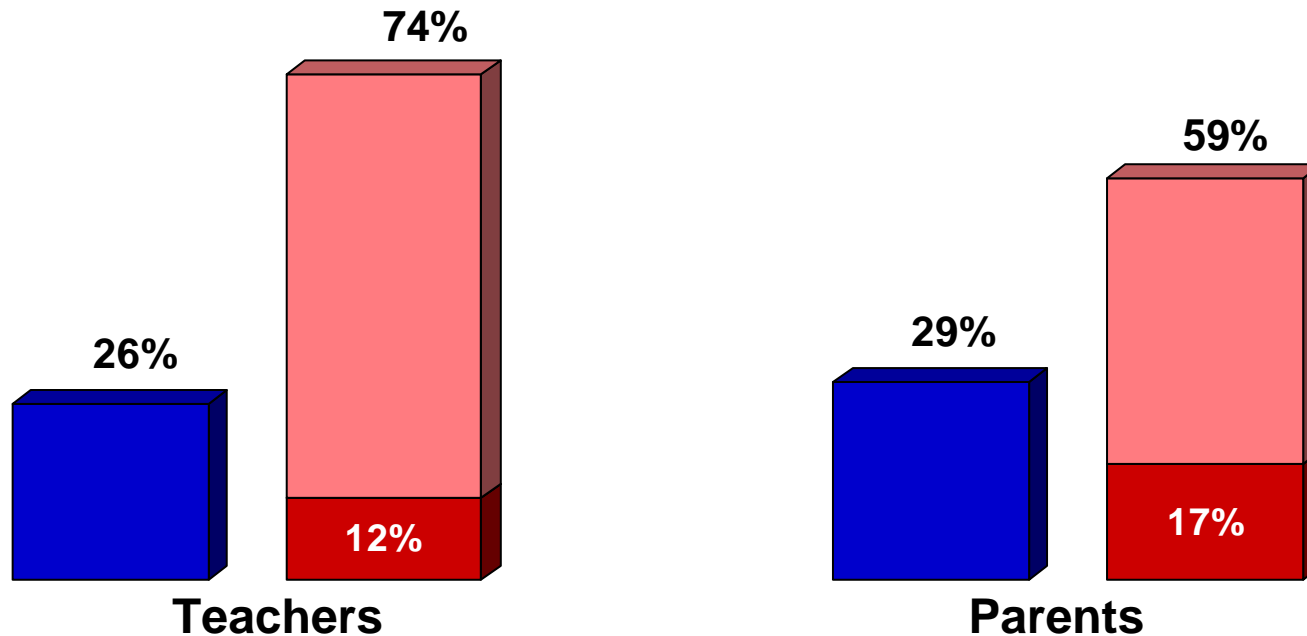


Parents



The prevailing view is that compared to the rest of the economy, America's public schools have some catching up to do in their use of technology.

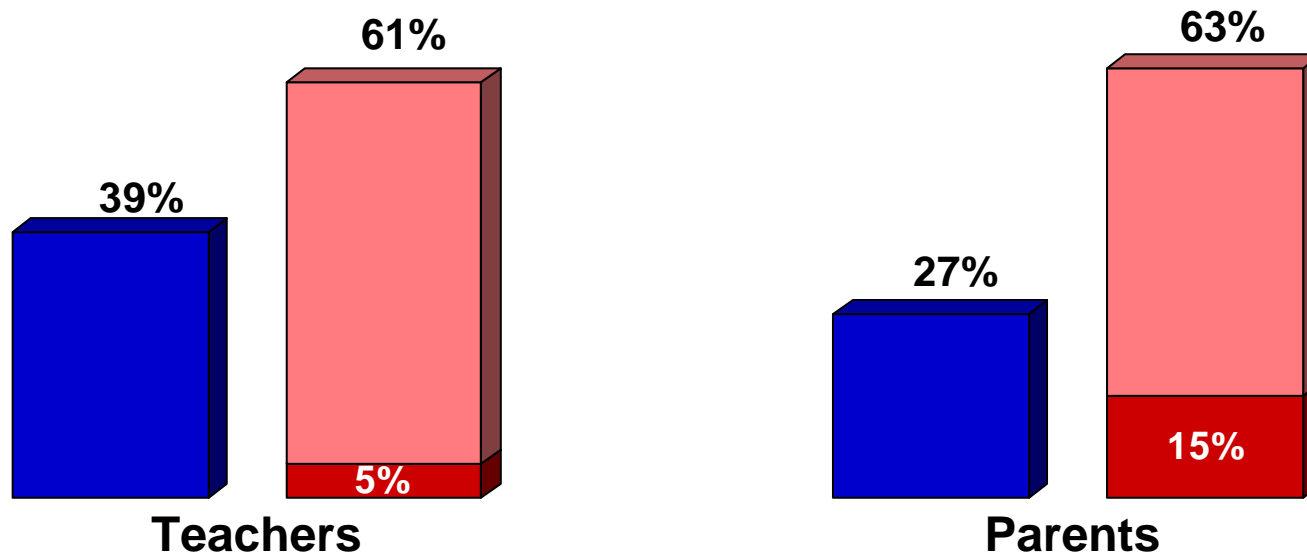
Technology has changed the way many businesses and sectors of our economy operate; compared with other parts of our economy, America's public schools are:





Most also believe America's public schools are behind the curve in terms of taking full advantage of technology in education.

In terms of what I would like to see in public schools' making the best use of technology in educating students, America's public schools are:

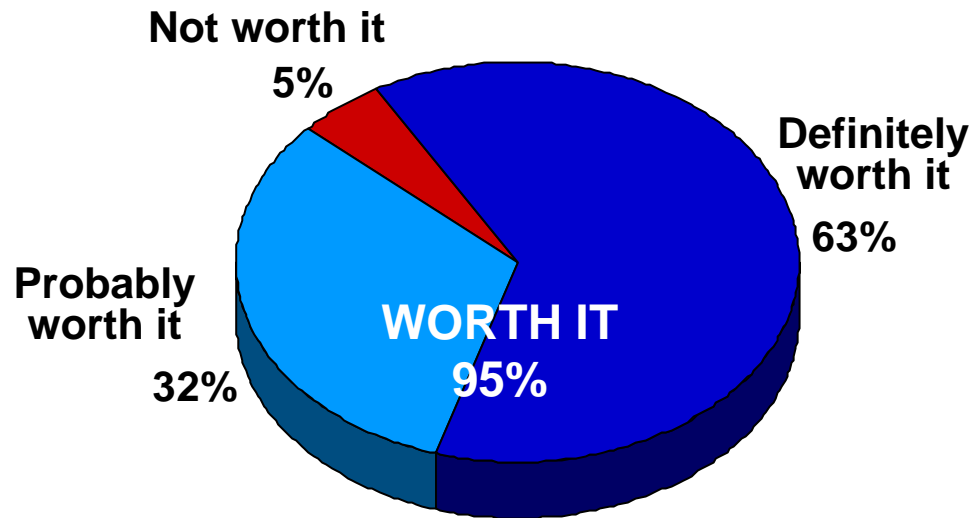




Teachers solidly support additional investments in technology by local schools, states, and the federal government.

Using technology in the ways described in this survey would require additional spending and investments by local schools, state governments, and the federal government. Would additional spending to help schools make the best use of technology be worth it?

All Teachers

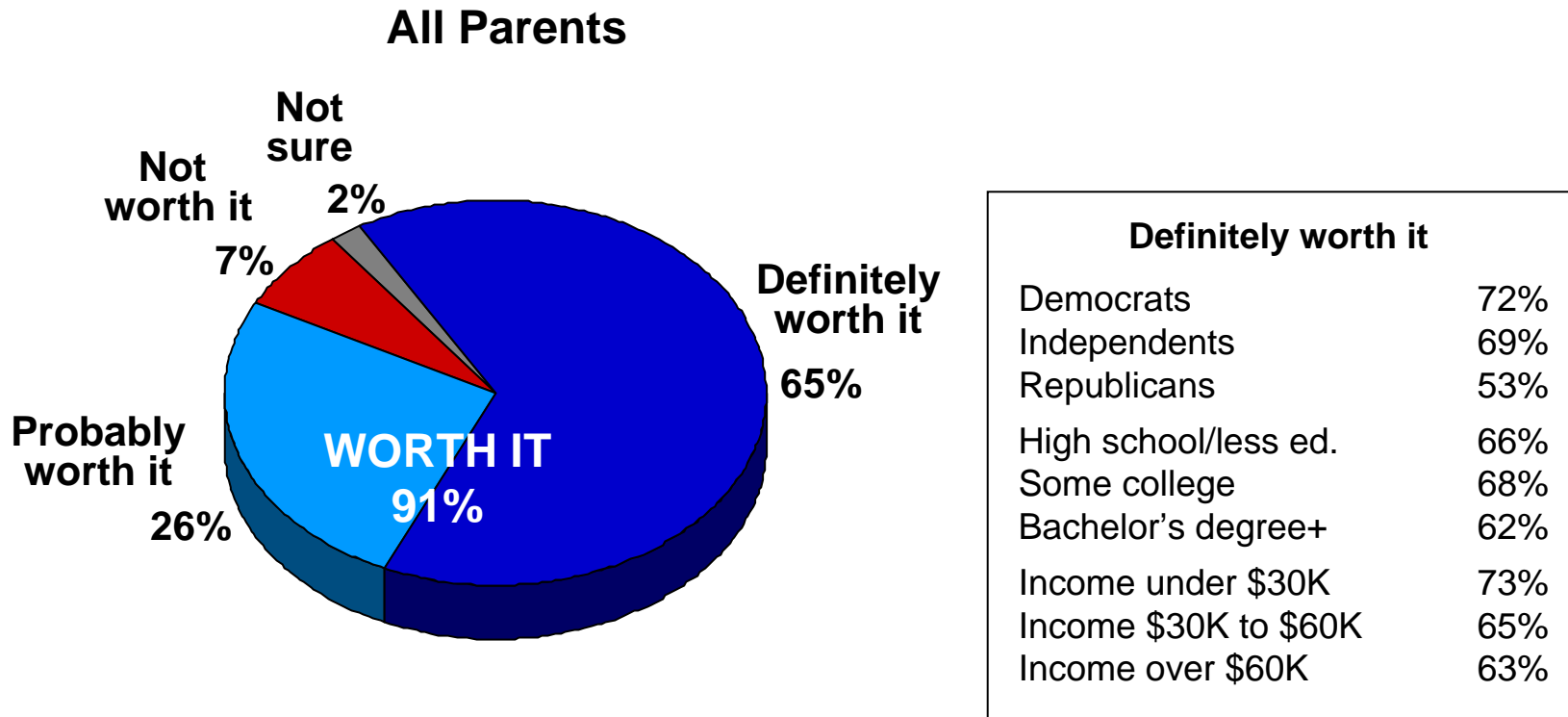


Definitely worth it	
Less than 40% FRM	59%
Less than 60% FRM	60%
60% or more FRM	71%



Parents solidly support additional investments in technology by local schools, states, and the federal government.

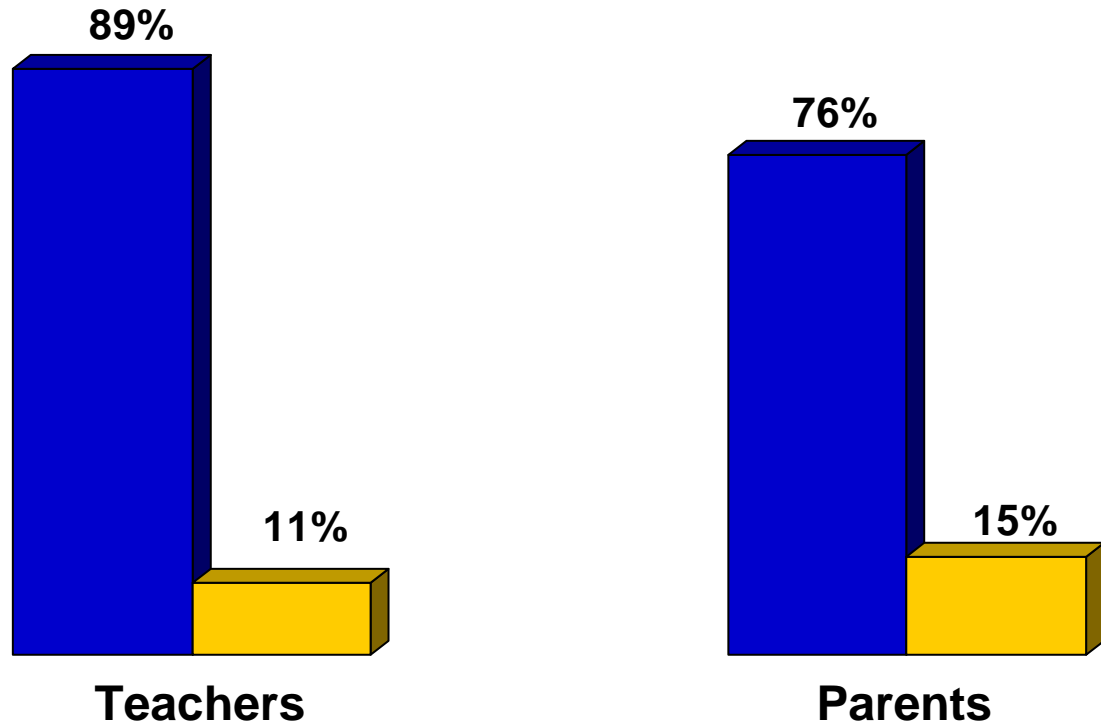
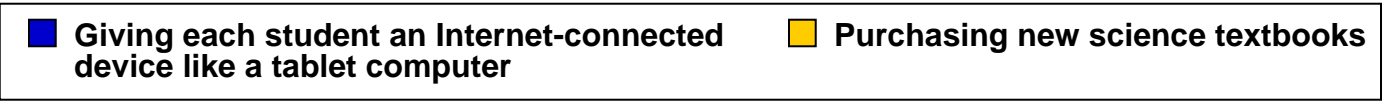
Using technology in the ways described in this survey would require additional spending and investments by local schools, state governments, and the federal government. Would additional spending to help schools make the best use of technology be worth it?





And given the choice, they support investments in technological devices for each student over investments in traditional textbooks.

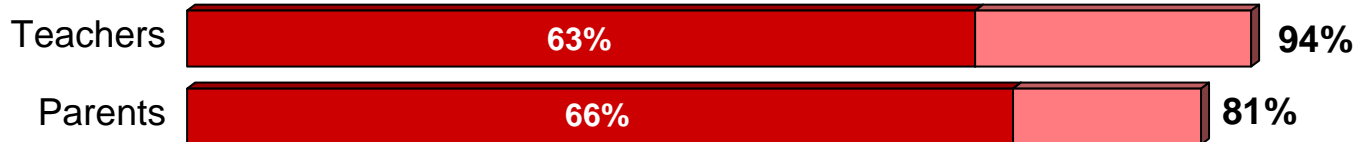
Which would be a better investment of \$200 per student for a school district today?



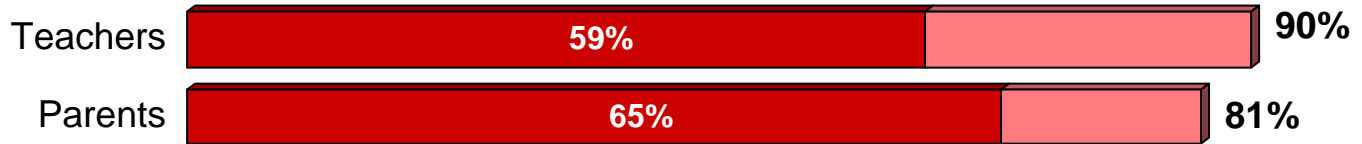
Majorities of teachers and parents would consider it a *very big problem* if the use of technology in schools does not improve in the coming years.

■ Would be a VERY big problem ■ Would be a fairly big problem

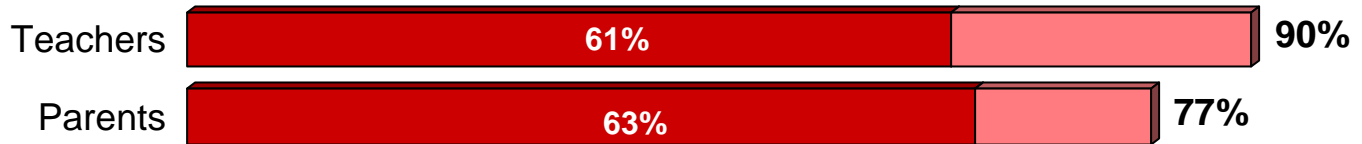
If there were wide gaps between poor and affluent children in access to technology



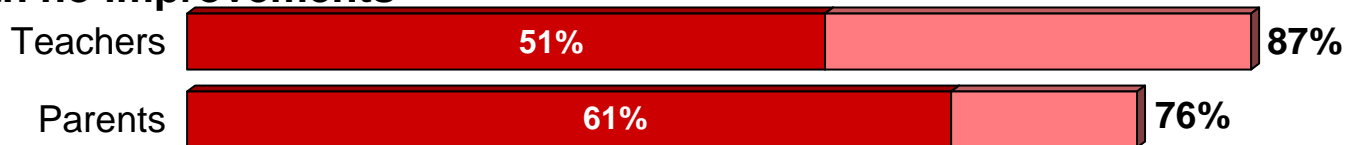
If U.S. students left high school with lower technological competency than students in other countries



If U.S. schools fell behind other countries in use of technology in educating students



If use of technology in my local schools stayed pretty much the same for the next 10 years with no improvements





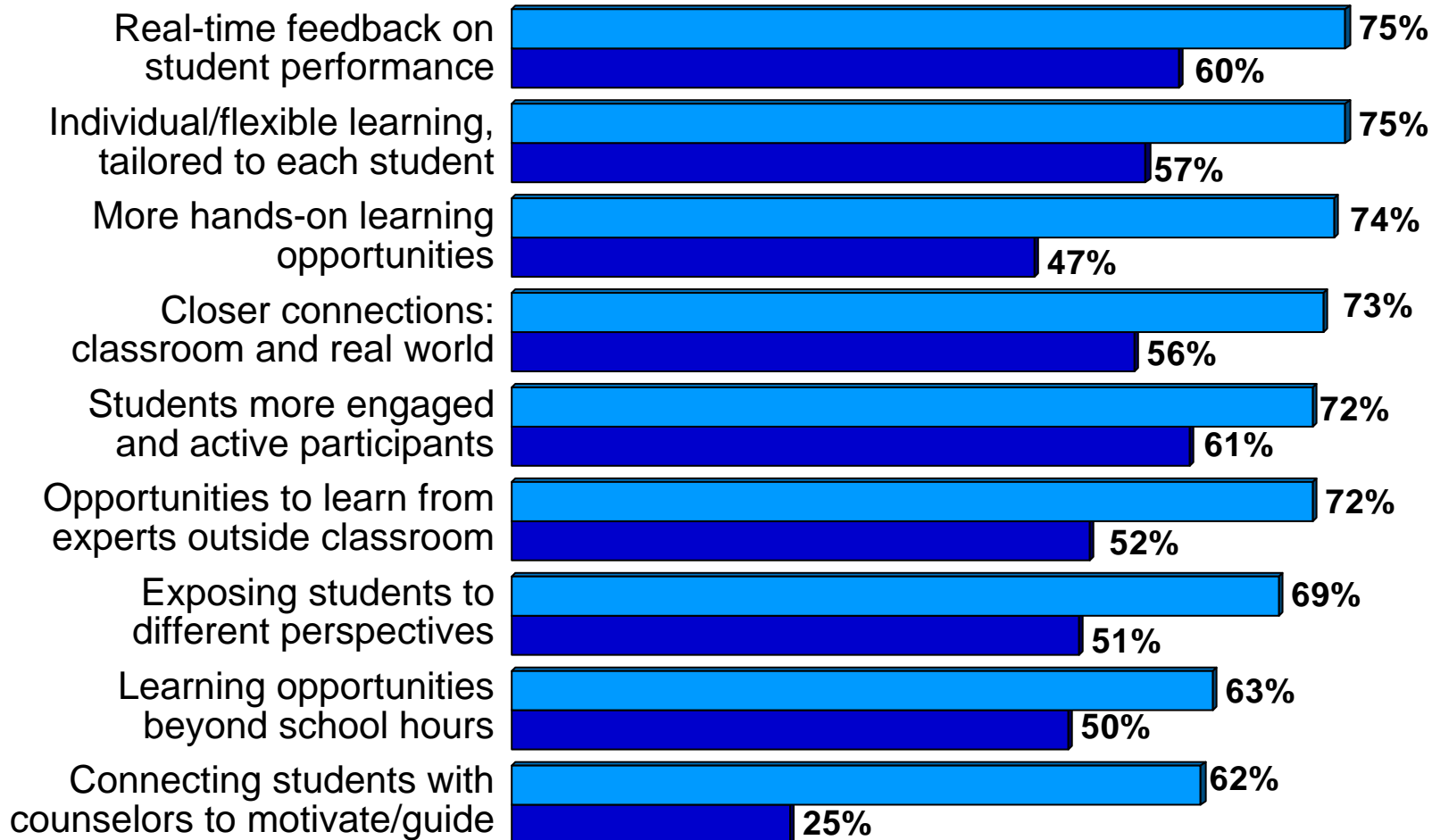
Teachers and parents highlight student engagement and connection to the real world as key education goals.

This is a critical/very important way to improve teaching & learning in schools:

	Teachers	Parents
Helping students become more engaged and active participants in their own learning	92%	89%
Making closer connections between the classroom and the real world	91%	85%
Exposing students to different perspectives or ways of thinking about topics they are learning about	86%	83%
Offering more hands-on learning opportunities	86%	87%
Providing more individualized and flexible learning, tailored to each student's unique circumstances, interests, and capabilities	73%	79%
Connecting students with counselors or other adults who can motivate and guide them	70%	81%
Providing faster or real-time feedback on student performance	66%	78%
Creating opportunities to learn from experts outside the classroom	64%	76%
Extending learning opportunities beyond traditional school hours	43%	56%

And they believe (especially parents) that technology can play a very helpful role in addressing those goals.

The proper use of technology has the potential to help a lot to accomplish this: ■ Parents ■ Teachers



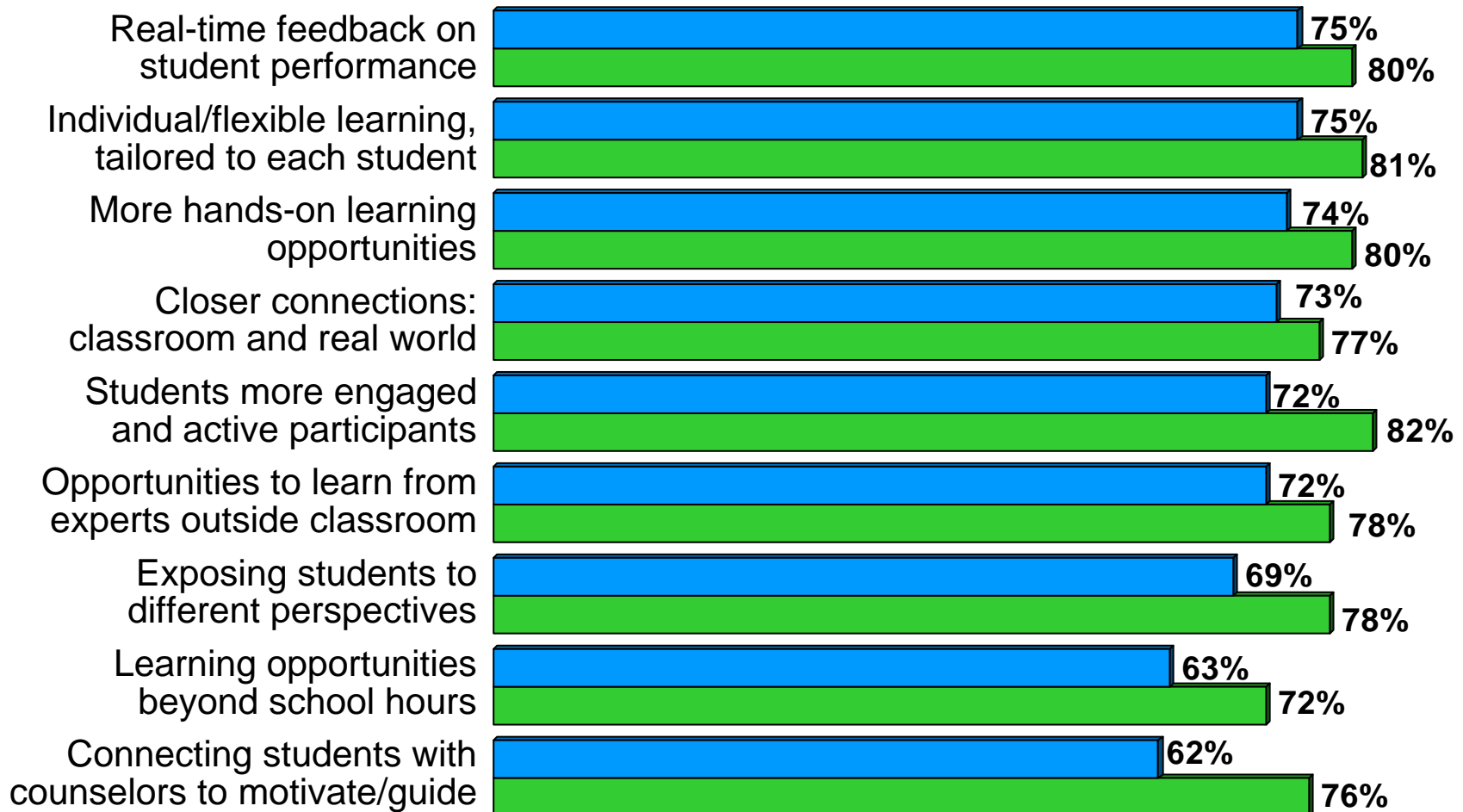
Low-income parents are even more likely to regard the goals for improving education today as important.

This is a critical/very important way to improve teaching & learning in schools:

	All Parents	Low-income Parents
Helping students become more engaged and active participants in their own learning	89%	93%
Offering more hands-on learning opportunities	87%	94%
Making closer connections between the classroom and the real world	85%	91%
Exposing students to different perspectives or ways of thinking about topics they are learning about	83%	90%
Connecting students with counselors or other adults who can motivate and guide them	81%	91%
Providing more individualized and flexible learning, tailored to each student's unique circumstances, interests, and capabilities	79%	91%
Providing faster or real-time feedback on student performance	78%	87%
Creating opportunities to learn from experts outside the classroom	76%	83%
Extending learning opportunities beyond traditional school hours	56%	69%

And low-income parents more strongly believe in the potential of technology to address goals for improving education.

Proper use of technology has the potential to help a lot to accomplish this: ■ All parents ■ Low-income parents



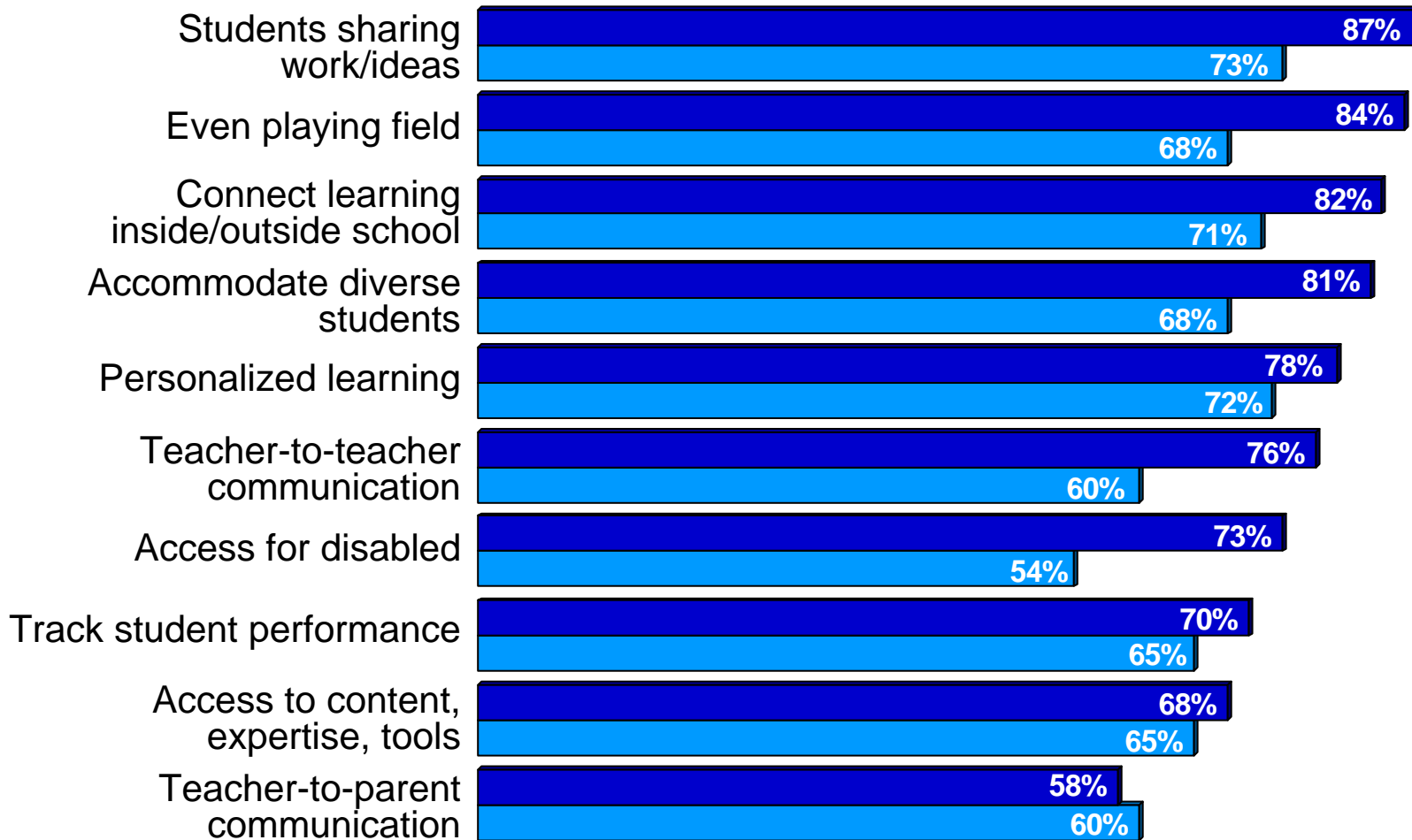
Teachers and parents recognize the value of several ways technology can be used to help teachers and improve learning.

This is a very valuable way for technology to help teachers/improve student learning

	Teachers	Parents
Access for disabled students, provide students who are blind or deaf with the ability to access written and recorded materials they would otherwise not be able to see or hear	82%	94%
Give students/teachers access to content, expertise, tools, different methods of teaching and learning, like animation and educational computer games, that can help students understand difficult concepts, such as geometry and problem solving	67%	76%
Track student performance in real time, giving student immediate feedback and helping teachers to track progress, give feedback, and guide instruction tailored to each child	59%	76%
Allow teachers to more effectively accommodate the needs of a diverse group of students, helping teachers to maximize the potential of each child at every level	58%	72%
Help teachers effectively/consistently communicate with parents, keep them engaged in child's education, updated on accomplishments/challenge areas/other issues that arise	58%	77%
More personalized learning, tailored to student's interests, skills, and pace of learning	57%	69%
Even the playing field for students who cannot get the educational help they need from their families or communities	53%	75%
Allow teachers to communicate with educators from different towns, states, or countries, sharing ideas, challenges, feedback on successful teaching methods/techniques	49%	72%
Help break down barriers by connecting learning inside and outside school: through things like Internet homework, teachers can identify challenges, monitor progress, tailor instruction to each student's strengths and weaknesses much more effectively	49%	68%
Provide students opportunity to share work/ideas and obtain feedback from a wide audience, so they can hear/learn from multiple perspectives, students around U.S./globe	47%	65%

And they believe (especially teachers) that their local school districts should be doing more to reap the most valuable benefits of technology.

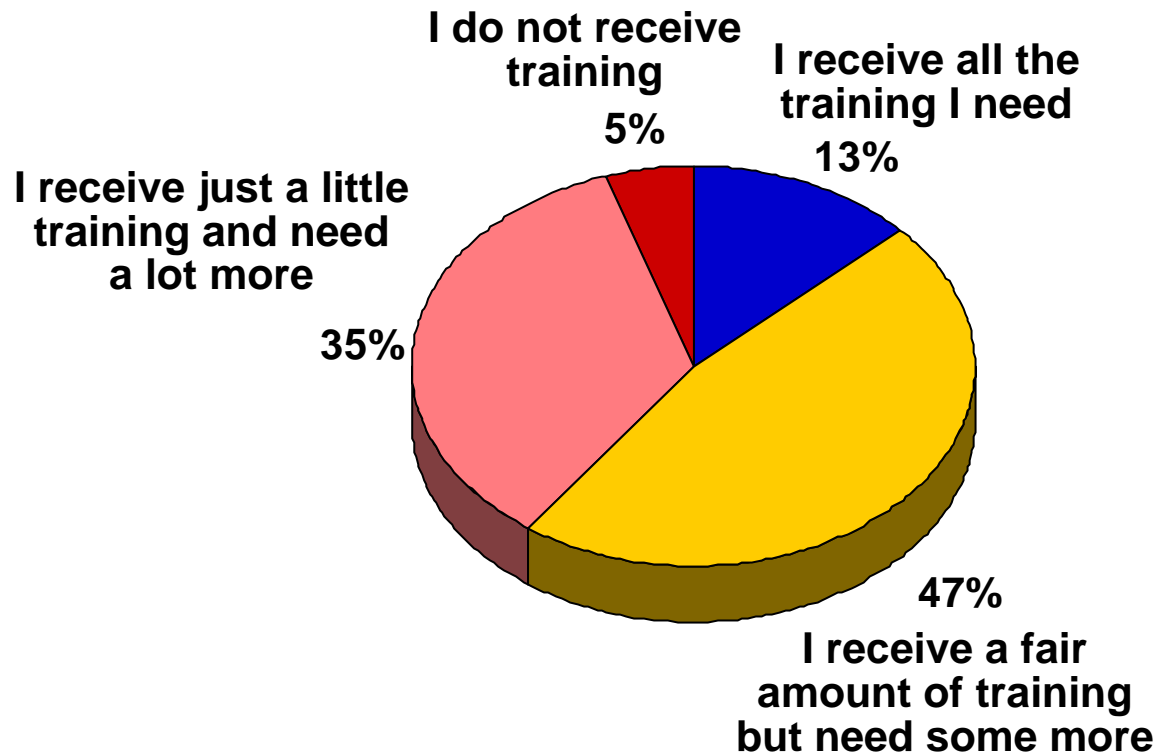
My school district should be using technology much/somewhat more in this way: ■ Teachers ■ Parents





While teachers see the promise of technology in education, most are not receiving the training they need to use it to its fullest potential.

When it comes to receiving training and professional development on technology, including the basics on how to use different devices and forms of technology as well as training on different teaching methods and approaches to integrating technology into what they do, teachers say:

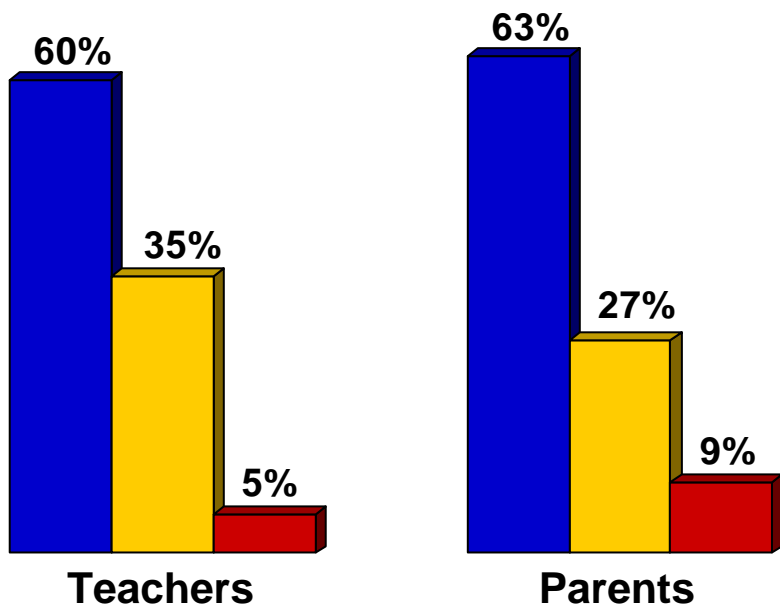




Home access to broadband is viewed as important in doing well in school, and students who lack home access are seen as at a significant disadvantage.

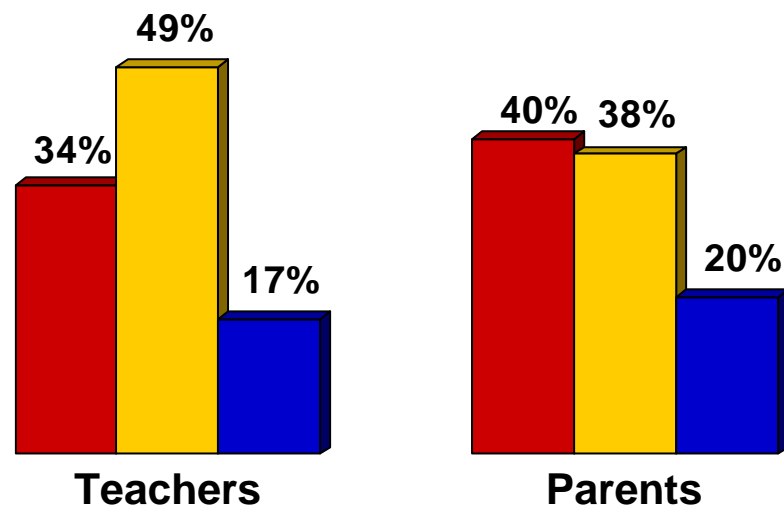
In learning and doing well in school, having home access to high-speed Internet gives a student:

- A big advantage
- A moderate advantage
- A small advantage/no advantage



In learning & doing well in school, a student who doesn't have home access to high-speed Internet, as compared with a student who does:

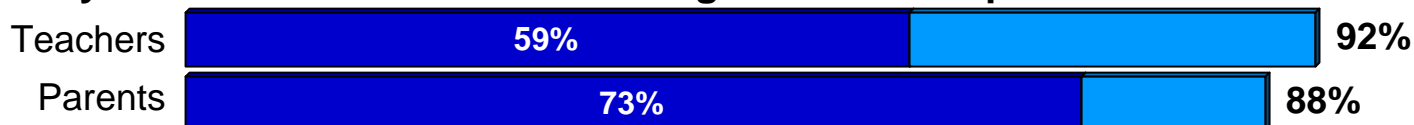
- Has a big disadvantage
- Has a moderate disadvantage
- Has a small disadvantage/no disadvantage



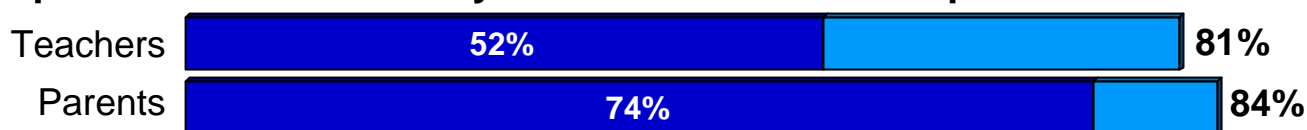
Teachers and parents see value in many benefits that home access to broadband offers young people.

■ Very valuable benefit of home access to high-speed Internet ■ Fairly valuable benefit

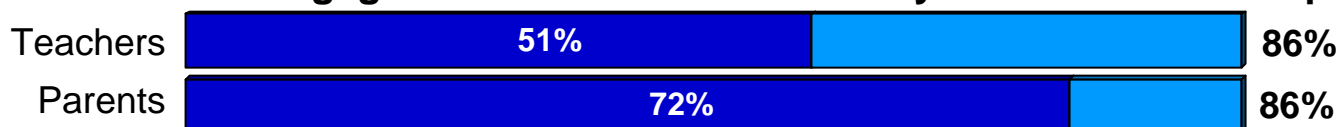
Greatly expand opportunities for learning: access to information, resources, educational tools that greatly exceed what students can bring home in backpack



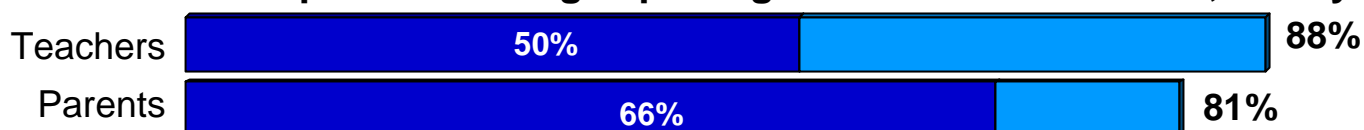
Help parents protect children: closely monitor children's computer/Internet activities



Help parents be aware of/engaged in child's interests: easily track what child explores



Greatly expand time child spends learning/exploring – not limited to school, library hours



Develops teamwork/collaboration skills: engage online in group homework/educational games

