PowerSchool National Teacher Study

In May 2016, PowerSchool utilized a research firm to conduct a nationwide, online survey reaching N=800 teachers, administrators, vice principals and principals regarding the use of and behavior toward in-classroom technologies. A random sample of N=800 respondents has a margin of error of about +/- 3.5 percent for the full sample size. Quotas were set by region, gender and age to ensure a representative sample. This research uncovered three key findings:

- First, there is an overwhelming need for a unified classroom experience so teachers can spend more time on education and less on administration;
- Second, teachers believe technology and smart classroom management will benefit students, teachers, and parents alike; and
- Third, teachers believe current classroom management and grading systems are inadequate and need to be upgraded.

The Need for a Unified Classroom Experience is Paramount to Educators

Teachers believe in unifying all classroom applications. Nearly all teachers agree (97 percent) that having all of their classroom applications for grading, attendance, learning management and assessment data, etc. unified in one place would eliminate unnecessary time spent on administration, allowing for more valuable educational time. Specific to the unified classroom experience, teachers also almost unanimously agreed (96 percent) that having a single online interface showing student performance is critical.

Teachers are looking to technology and educational software to help them spend more time teaching and less on administrative activities. To that point, 67 percent of all teachers and administrators are looking for educational software and technology to help them save time.

Technology and Smart Classroom Management is the Solution for Students, Teachers and Parents

The door is open for different, technology-based approaches, as more than 90 percent of teachers think it's important for teachers and students to have access to technology in the classroom. Additionally, technology helps engage parents and is seen as an important piece to helping families understand their child's performance. In fact, 76 percent of teachers feel technology is absolutely important in engaging parents and families to help them understand their child's performance and help them succeed.

The classroom is also seeing a shift towards greater mobile adoption, as more than 80 percent of teachers said students need to be engaged in mobile learning outside of school to be successful. For parents of struggling students, 71 percent of teachers and administrators think that a personalized mobile learning app that could track a child's educational data would be helpful.

Classroom Management and Grading Systems are Inadequate or Broken

Teachers see room for improvement in reaching individual students. Virtually all respondents (95 percent) believe it's important to understand a student's individual strengths and weaknesses when designing a lesson plan. However, 89 percent feel that personalized learning models proposed need improvement, suggesting the strengths and weaknesses are not being adequately addressed. Of particular note, teachers feel that behavioral data in particular is not integrated well, with half (49 percent) of all respondents saying they wish they had a better system for managing behavioral data.

Additionally, teachers recognize the need for better grading systems, as nearly three-in-four (72 percent) agreed that the traditional grading system most schools use is broken. Additionally, teachers and administrators in the largest school districts were especially likely to reflect this sentiment.

About PowerSchool Group LLC

PowerSchool is the #1 leading education technology platform for K-12, serving more than 57 million users, 20 million students, 36 million parents, and 70 countries around the world. We provide best-in-class, secure, and compliant online solutions, inclusive of a learning management system, student information system, registration and school choice, assessment and analytics, and special education case management. We empower teachers and drive student growth through innovative digital classroom capabilities, and we engage families through real-time communications across any device. Visit www.powerschool.com to learn more.