



White Paper

Cloud for Education

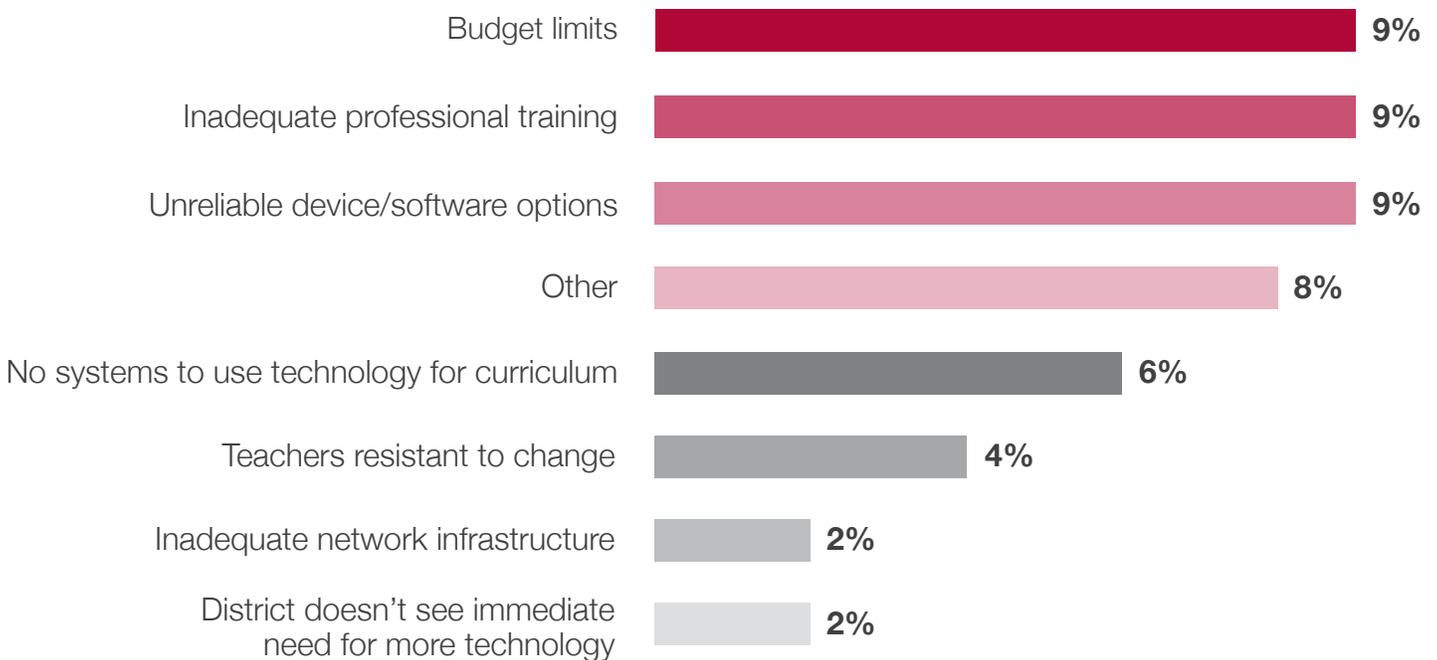


Cloud for Education

The educational system faces increasing demands from students, teachers and parents to provide personalized and differentiated learning environments, based on the needs and preferences of the students. But as these demands come in, schools continue to face budget constraints or cuts, making it a seemingly unsolvable issue.

Cloud computing is making a significant impact on education today, improving how students learn, teachers teach, and educational institutions operate. Each school, college or university has its own specific needs and preferences when it comes to technology, and fortunately, the cloud can address these with a wide range of solutions and resources available.

Unique Challenges Education Faces With Technology



*Education Dive 2015 State of Education Technology

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Cloud Computing and Education

For Students

Most students already use technology on a daily basis. They enjoy items like personal mobile devices, and they're experts at using them. That's why technology is the perfect way to reach students in an educational setting. Of course, this technology shouldn't distract from learning – but it can, and should, support it. By implementing cloud computing, schools can embrace initiatives like Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), which takes education

to the student level and allows them to better engage in the learning process. 81% of students use mobile devices (such as smartphones and tablets) to study, the second most popular device category behind laptops. (McGraw-Hill Education)

Students have busy lives - their day doesn't usually end when school ends. Often, they head directly to another activity, whether it's team practice, rehearsal,

lessons, work, or a social event. Cloud computing allows students to remain productive on the go and work around these other commitments. It's easier to access assignments online, complete assigned reading without lugging around a heavy textbook, or participate in group projects without dealing with conflicting schedules.

For Educators

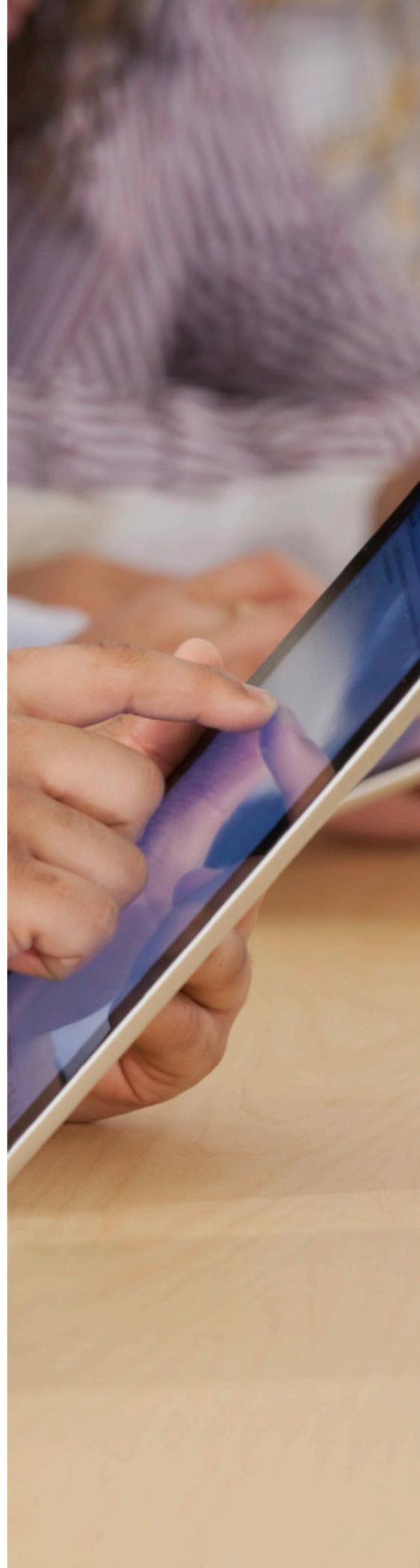
Some teachers, and even parents, have a fear that technology might not be the best way to go about education. After all, it's common for a teacher to remind students not to text in class. But putting up with distractions isn't what we mean when we say teachers should embrace technology. And to an extent, they realize that the distracting side of technology isn't what they're expected to implement. A TES Global Corp. survey of over 3,500 teachers found that while only 24% think technology improves student engagement, 96% of teachers agree that technology plays a significant role in their classroom.

It's all about how technology

and cloud solutions are implemented. Cloud computing enables greater innovation in the classroom setting. Faculty can create collaborative, interactive lesson plans, post assignments, reading excerpts or additional resources online, and even offer extra help outside of school, virtually. Teachers can use cloud-based software that enables personalized learning based on the student preferences and performance data.

And just like students, a teacher's day doesn't just end when the bell rings. They often have to complete grading or other tasks later, and with cloud capabilities, this is possible to do at home, instead of staying late on campus.

“With the cloud, teachers can bring innovation back into the classroom and complete extra tasks, like grading, easily from home.”



The Benefits

Student-Teacher Collaboration

The cloud leads to more effective communication inside and beyond the campus environment. Enhanced collaboration leads to improved productivity, innovation and efficiency. For students specifically, it leads to enhanced learning, as they can continue to communicate with each other and their

teachers outside of the classroom setting. With technology as a key educational tool, teachers can facilitate rather than dictate, and allow students the freedom to discover and explore information in new ways. This simple shift can really enhance how education is delivered.

Connected Learning

Thanks to the cloud, students can remain connected to their education and experience the tools needed to succeed in a global economy. Access to learning resources are extended beyond the traditional campus. The quality of instruction and assessment will improve, and educational institu-

tions can implement innovative learning models. Cloud computing helps schools experience interactive multimedia learning environments that can be accessed at any time, from any location, on any computing device.

Personalized Learning

Cloud computing offers options for tailoring education to students' academic strengths and weaknesses, motivations, learning preferences, and optimal pace of learning. In the future, this approach allows students to pursue individualized learning paths and environments that are both flexible and structured. Use of district-owned or personal

computing devices enables 24x7 learning based on student schedules and preferences. Additionally, schools can implement software to distribute assignments, manage schedules and communications, and track progress. Educational software streamlines everything.

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Professional Development

The quality of education relies heavily on teachers. Highly skilled faculty naturally leads to better education for students. Great teachers are also lifelong students and participate in professional development opportunities. These help them remain current on research and trends in education, as

well as allow them to share their knowledge with others. With cloud technology in place, it's easier and more affordable for teachers to access professional development opportunities because they don't necessarily have to travel to take advantage of them.

Cost Efficiency

With cloud computing resources in place, schools can reduce their IT expenses and total cost of ownership significantly. These savings can instead be focused on teaching and learning priorities in the organization. And with collaborative, mobile tools like video conferencing or Web networks, cloud reduces travel time and expenses for teachers and administrators that need to meet or at-

tend professional development events. Cloud also enables more cost efficient usage of up-to-date software while eliminating the hassle and cost of licensing, meaning students will be able to access a wider array of resources. Overall, the cloud simplifies operations, saves time, and cuts costs significantly for educational institutions.

Mobility

Cloud developers are focusing on device agnostic services, which allows teacher and student priorities to be centered on learning. They don't have to deal with device management, or the limitation of accessing resources only on campus. Instead, cloud makes mobility possible, allowing all par-

ties to access their educational resources on the device of their choice, in any location, at any time. As schools integrate mobile learning, this flexibility will quickly become a requirement for each organization.

Security and Compliance

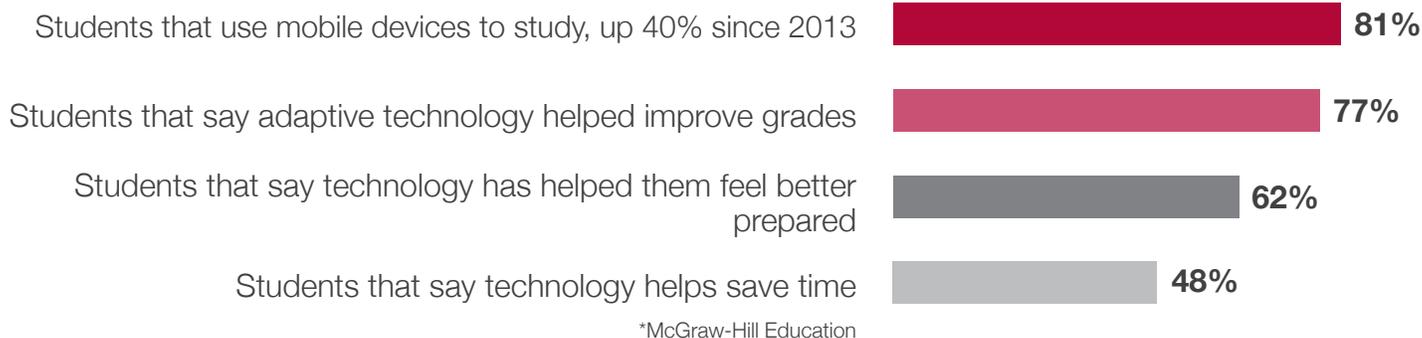
Educational institutions struggle with data security too. Today, many cloud computing options meet compliance and security requirements, making it

safe for educational IT teams to move workloads into the cloud. Student and teacher data remains safe, and the organization can stick to regulations.



See What Students Think

2015 Digital Trends in Higher Education



About RapidScale

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