

Digital Learning

Meeting the Challenges and Embracing the Opportunities for Teachers

A Policy Brief from the
Texas Association of School Administrators
and The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce

In cooperation with the
Committee for Economic Development



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WHAT IS DIGITAL LEARNING?



HOW ARE DIGITAL-AGE
LEARNERS DIFFERENT?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN for.....

TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS?

BUSINESS LEADERS?

POLICY MAKERS?

Teaching and Learning in the Digital Environment



- *Digital-age learners are*
- *Teaching and learning in the digital environment*

Teaching and Learning in the Digital Environment



- Digital-age learners are tech savvy and have a “free agent” approach to learning.
- Digital-age learners have access to resources and knowledge beyond traditional school structures and are less dependent upon traditional education institutions for knowledge.
- The digital environment provides great opportunity for schools to advance learning for all students but also presents new challenges to teachers and schools.

Key Ideas for Teachers and School Leaders



- *The role of teachers in the digital environment....*
- *Effective teaching in the digital environment.....*

Key Ideas for Teachers and School Leaders



- The role of teachers is still critical, but in some ways, different in the digital environment.
- Preparing teachers to take full advantage of technology and the digital learning will require the development of new skills.
- Technology access and resources, teacher training and professional development and structures and delivery methods must be addressed.

Teachers in the Digital Environment.....



- Design relevant, rigorous learning tasks that leverage the power of technologies and the Internet
- Develop facilitation and collaboration strategies
- Create classrooms that support collaborative and independent learning
- Establish guidelines for ethical and appropriate use of digital media and content
- Use various technologies and the Internet in instructional planning and decision-making
- Use digital technologies in evaluation of learning

Key Ideas for Business and Community Leaders



- *To support teaching and learning in the digital environment, business and community leaders can....*

Key Ideas for Business and Community Leaders



- Business and community leaders can encourage and support digital learning and teacher effectiveness.
 - Develop mentorship programs
 - Work directly with teachers
 - Invest in schools to support effective teaching and use of technologies
 - Spotlight teacher successes and share them throughout the community

Key Ideas for Policymakers



- *In consideration of teaching and learning in the digital environment, state-level policy-makers should consider....*

Key Ideas for Policymakers



- State-level policy plays an integral role in establishing expectations and standards for schools and teachers.
 - Broaden current policies related to teacher effectiveness and accountability
 - Provide direction and support for increasing teacher effectiveness in the digital environment
 - Support school professional-learning systems that leverage the power and impact of technology
 - Find ways to fund and support equitable access to state-of-the art technology

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DIALOGUE

