

DIGITAL RESEARCH SNAPSHOT



INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON LEARNING TECHNOLOGY VISIONS, INC.

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Research on Educational Technology — An Ongoing Series

BACKGROUND/METHODOLOGY: The following represents data collected from January 2006 to April 2006, in an upstate NY school district of approximately 2,500 students. Data are from high school (HS) student, middle school (MS) student, and K-12 teacher web surveys. Web survey response rates were; HS students: 82%, MS students: 95%, teachers: 47%. Additional data were collected from four focus group interviews of HS and MS students (two focus groups of each) and from an observational walk-through of approximately 200 instructional spaces across five school buildings.

Student Use of the ClassLink Universal Learning Suite™

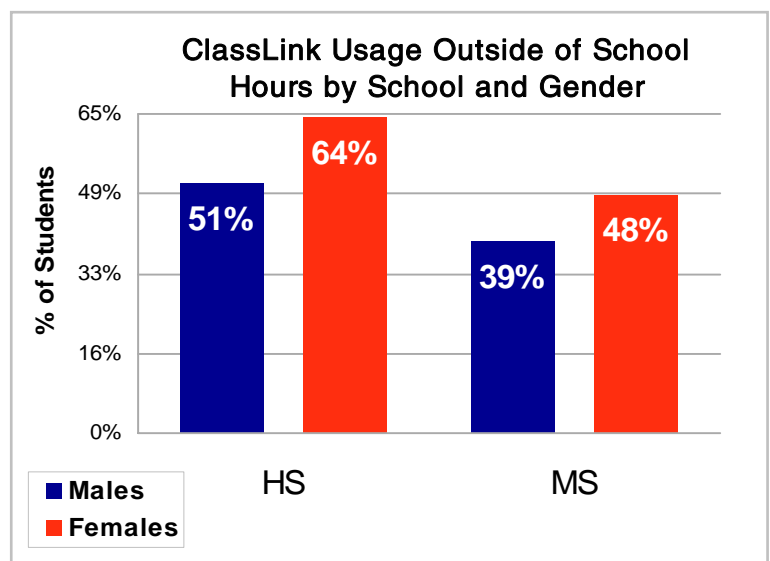
About half of surveyed students use ClassLink *outside of school hours*, with more use reported by females overall.

Use During School Day

All district software applications are delivered to students through ClassLink inside the school. ClassLink also provides access to district applications and files from outside the school 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

Use Outside of Class

Overall, slightly over half of HS and MS students (HS = 58%, MS = 44%) are using ClassLink outside of school hours both from within the school building and from home. Additionally, we find that a larger percentage of both HS and MS females use ClassLink than do their respective male counterparts.



Use of ClassLink at Home

Most students, 66%, have high speed Internet access from home. When asked how much time they use ClassLink at home, 43% of HS and MS students answered that that they were using ClassLink from home a half hour or more on a typical school day (HS = 37%, MS = 51%). There were no major gender differences in the home-use analysis.

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Teacher Use of the ClassLink Universal Learning Suite™

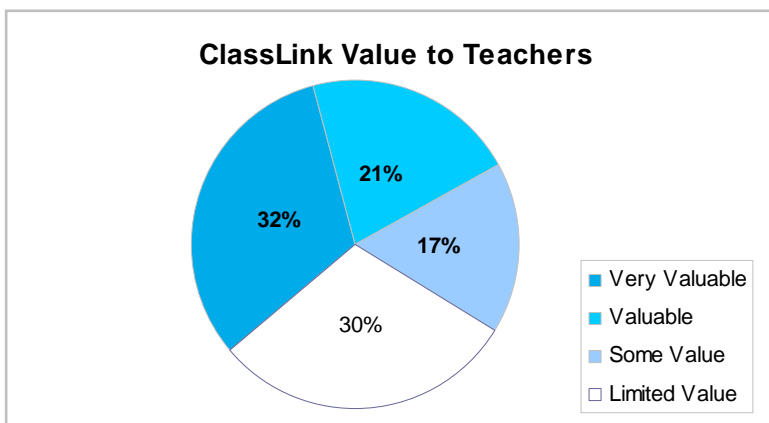
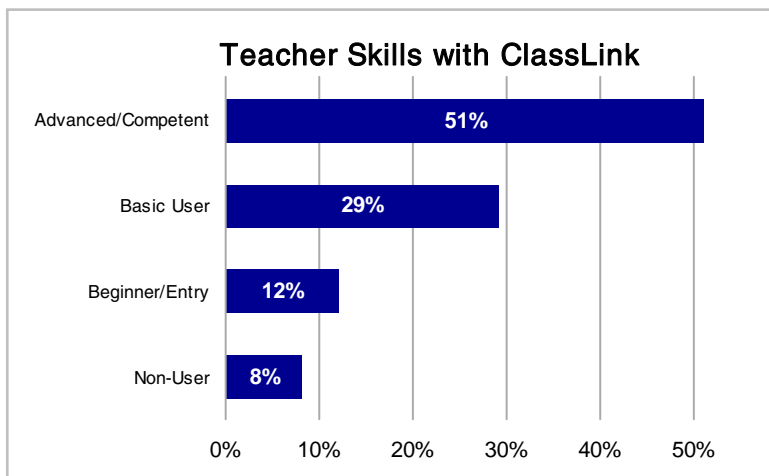
The majority of teachers believe ClassLink provides value. Ninety-four percent of teachers have a home computer and of that group, slightly over 40% indicate they access ClassLink from home on a daily or weekly basis. Further, 51% consider their skill level with ClassLink to be “Advanced” or “Competent”.

When asked about their skill level in using ClassLink, 80% of teachers consider themselves at a basic level or higher.

Seven out of 10 teachers indicated that they use ClassLink in their classroom for use in teaching or for student use.

Value of ClassLink

In a series of questions asking teachers about how valuable different technology resources in the school district were to them, 70% of teachers found ClassLink valuable. This compares with 73% of teachers who found the district software provided through the network valuable. Of all teachers surveyed, 32% indicated ClassLink was “Very Valuable.”



Focus Group Interviews — Students

Students said they saw the value of technology and wanted more integration of it into their classes—and also would like their teachers to develop more skills in using technology.

Students perceived widespread technology available in school, but limited use in their classes; walk-through data confirmed this perception. Student-identified areas for improvement included upgrading school computer hardware and limiting or removing Internet filtering.

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