

Principal Executive Summary: *Digital Landscapes in Australian Schools 2023*

Principals are tasked with harnessing digital technologies and investment to enrich education. This summary distills key findings from *Digital Landscapes in Australian Schools 2023*, a report on challenges and opportunities around digital implementation in schools.

The report was commissioned by Champion Education to examine how school leaders are planning and implementing technology strategies. 135 senior staff from Australian schools participated.

Key Findings

- Over half of surveyed schools have embraced a **dual learning approach**, integrating both digital and print tools and resources. More than one-third of schools express a strong desire to deepen their digital commitment, with the goal of achieving a highly tech-enabled environment in the short to medium term. Tangible plans include roadmaps and implementation committees.
- **Schools are moving quickly**. Close to 20% of schools aim to increase their tech enablement within the next 12 months; a similar cohort plans for three+ years. Many schools are proactively enhancing their digital capacity including platforms and systems. Professional development and up-skilling for teachers emerge as crucial themes.
- **Cost of access** remains a critical challenge in ensuring equitable access across communities.

About Technology Adoption:

- **Widely adopted technologies** include PDF textbooks, interactive textbooks, digital learning software, and Learning Management System (LMS) tools.
- **Key commercial factors** include the cost of hardware and software for students, clarity of available information, and funding capacity, with more than 80% of respondents in agreement.
- **Staff technical skills** are critically important and pose significant challenges, highlighting the need for ongoing training and development.

Three Leading Benefits from Technology:

- Technology provides crucial **connectivity for students**, supporting remote learning and access to educational resources.
- Implementing technology positively impacts the **school external brand**, enhancing the community's understanding and perception of the school.
- Technology enhances accessibility for diverse learning styles and capabilities, leading to **learning outcomes and benefits**.

In Conclusion

The *Digital Landscapes in Australian Schools* report underscores pivotal actions for principals in navigating the complexities of digital implementation. By collaborating with key decision-makers, addressing implementation challenges, and prioritising staff development, principals can steer schools toward a highly tech-enabled future, ensuring equitable access and enriching the learning experiences of all students.

Next Steps

- Complete report is enclosed.
- You are welcome to use the report as a sounding board for your school's strategy and share as appropriate with staff and community.
- Benchmark your school and review your technology strategy: Champion's Digital Landscapes program can offer a one-on-one strategy session with school ICT special consultant Steven Archibald, at no charge. To apply contact research@champion.com.au