**Issues with Technology in Schools**

In recent years, technology has been a lifeline in schools. It has provided students and teachers with instant access to information, which has revolutionized learning entirely. As beneficial as it can be to students and teachers, the emergence of technology in schools has not come without its fair share of challenges.

The pace of change with technology in schools is rapid. There are constant innovations being made where newer and more efficient technology replaces existing technology. With this change, comes increases in the cost of the technology. With many schools, particularly public schools, on a limited budget, affording these technologies is becoming harder. A [recent study](https://s3.amazonaws.com/dive_assets/rlpsys/State_of_EdTech_Survey_2015.pdf) even demonstrated that 75.9% of respondents saw budget restrictions as the biggest challenge preventing them from embracing education technology.

Issues of cyber safety and privacy have also increased significantly from the dominance of technology in schools. Increased use of technology by students leaves them more vulnerable to scammers or hackers. Younger students who are new to technology are most at risk here, making digital literacy education even more important from a younger age. Features such as keyword blocking or smart alerts have shown to be effective in mitigating privacy risks.

The effectiveness of technology is dependent on the infrastructure that a school has to support it. Poor quality infrastructure significantly inhibits the utility of technology. One common issue with infrastructure is typically with the wifi, as unreliable wifi in schools slows the learning process by making applications and websites harder to effectively access. Having strong IT infrastructures can be expensive and are also therefore restricted to a school’s budget.

Technology is also having an impact on schools through the use of personal devices by students. Between classes, students can be seen submerged on their phones. Some are even using them in the classrooms directly distracting from the learning process. Most schools have created policies against this, but enforcement is shaping out to be difficult. Stricter policy proposals to prevent students from getting distracted by their personal devices include not allowing phones in classrooms at all, making students leave them in their lockers.

This is one of the major factors contributing to the impact that technology is having on the attention spans of students. A Pew Research Center [survey found](http://www.pewresearch.org/daily-number/teachers-say-that-for-students-today-research-googling/) that nearly 90 percent of teachers believe that digital technologies are causing students to be easily distracted. Another 60% said it hindered students’ ability to write and communicate face to face. Also, 76% of teachers believed students were using the internet too much for answers, leading to a loss of concentration.

Technology is creating major inequality between schools in many ways. Schools with sufficient resources are able to invest in the newest technologies while those who are not able to, lag behind and remain stuck with older and less efficient technologies. In addition to schools who lag behind, there are schools that do not have access to basic technologies, such as computers or projectors. Along with a low budget, the main reasons for this come down to out-of-date IT equipment and lack of digital literacy. It is important that policymakers work to further access to technology in school districts that lag behind.

While there may be many issues caused by technology in education, the robust advantages of using technology in the classroom are undeniable. However, the challenges resulting from technology use must be addressed in order to assure that it is as effective and equitable in schools around the country.

Outline:

Pace of change and cost:

Differnet social dynamics

Allignment between technology, Curriculum, and Instruction

Digital Literacy

Privacy

Inequality

Automation future in schools