The New College Prep:

Edtech's Full Impact on Student Success

Developed in collaboration with

Google for Education

Lifelong skills are built one school assignment at a time.

The flood of classroom technology that supports so much of today's coursework is fast-tracking students for future readiness.

But these educational devices aren't just teaching technical proficiency. To be truly prepared for college and beyond, tomorrow's workforce will have to master a host of soft skills, too.

According to the Brookings Institute, "If the education sector stays on its current trajectory, by 2030 half of all children and young people around the world will lack basic secondary-level skills needed to thrive."
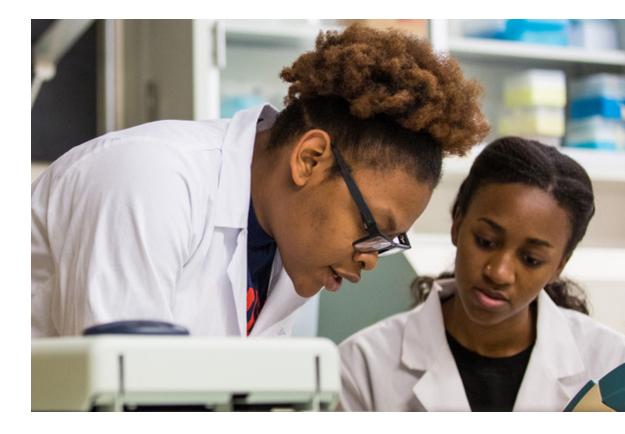
Fortunately, technology can help close the gap by properly preparing college-bound students. Here's a bird's-eye view of how tech's engaging learning on many levels.

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> **With the tech tools designed to connect us, we can keep kids collaborating**

Teamwork is Key

It's not just a saying. It's a truism. With remote work on the rise both in the classroom and the workforce at large, all eyes are on collaboration. It's how we work smarter, faster and produce our collective best work.

With the tech tools designed to connect us, we can keep kids collaborating, even when they're physically apart. Classroom technology can also help them understand how and when to communicate with different time zones, so they know how to connect despite the distance. As the job market becomes more global, the ability to engage in teamwork on an international scale will become all the more important.

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How essential is it? Queens University of Charlotte reports, "About 75% of employers rate teamwork and collaboration as 'very important.'" Meaning, if you can't collaborate, you'll have a much harder time getting ahead in the workplace.

Collaboration is also a precursor to communication, an equally important skillset as students prepare for their college years. The better they're able to listen and communicate clearly, the better students can work together to create the best possible solution for the task at hand.

How does technology help? According to NYU it "can actually help communication skills because it allows people to [deliver] written communication to varying audiences." It also teaches students how to deliver their thoughts succinctly within limited characters and time-bound assignments.

Critical Thinking for a Critical Age

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1:1 learning initiatives can also connect classrooms with the tools needed to creatively complete complex tasks.

Whether problem solving, making links between new and past knowledge, or constructing and defending sound arguments, students are expected to be able to think critically by the time they enter college.

This helps them complete assignments with minimal instruction, understanding the many available solutions and sequential steps needed to get from point A to point B. 1:1 learning initiatives can also connect classrooms with the tools needed to creatively complete complex tasks.

Adaptability and Responsibility

Having your own school-provided devices is a big responsibility. It teaches students the value and necessity of accountability at an early age. Successfully keeping up with equipment also imparts confidence, showing students they're capable of taking ownership.

Of course, over the year they'll be working from a particular device, it's likely the educational apps they access and the programs they use will undergo multiple updates. This is a microcosm of the rapid degree to which technology changes. This quick turnover encourages an adaptability in students that will mold them into digital natives. The more fluidly they can adopt a variety of new technologies, the more long-term potential their burgeoning digital literacy will have.

Google tools That Elevate Education

There's a reason more than 170 million students and educators worldwide are using Google Workspace for Education.

School communities are impactful institutions all on their own. But those that embrace resources like Google Workspace for Education see that students are supported by a suite of tech tools which take learning to the next level.

These are just a few of the fundamentals and tools which are enriching the class experience and driving academic integrity:

- 🔴 **Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, Sites, and Jamboard allow for real-time collaboration**

- 🟢 **Google Meet, Chat, and Gmail facilitate communication virtually from anywhere**

- 🟡 **Google Meet's interactive Q&As, polls, attendance tracking, breakout rooms, and recordings greatly improve learning engagement**

We've long known educational technology enhances the learning environment. Now, we're seeing how it shapes students throughout and beyond their university years. With their tech savvy and soft skills cemented, today's learners can become tomorrow's leaders.