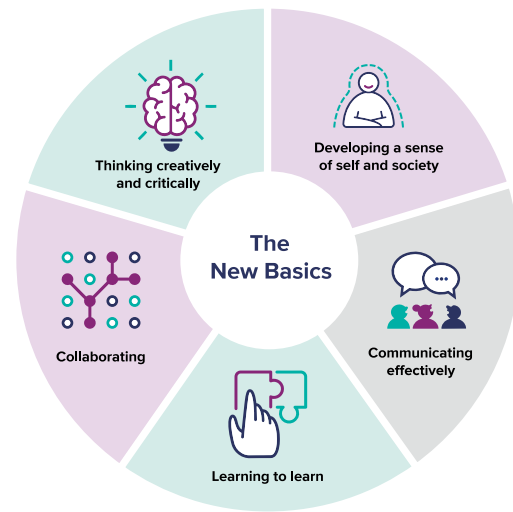


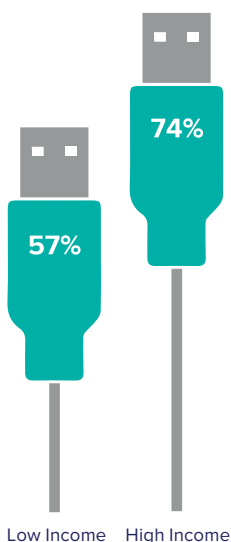
Technology in Schools – A Tool and a Strategy

Future-ready skills, as defined by UNESCO in 2020, involve generations who can adapt to the changing world, who can make effective use of technological advancements and who can rise to challenges we cannot yet imagine. As we begin to imagine how public education will need to change and evolve in this time, People for Education has defined *The New Basics* that should be an integral component of a future plan for education in Ontario.



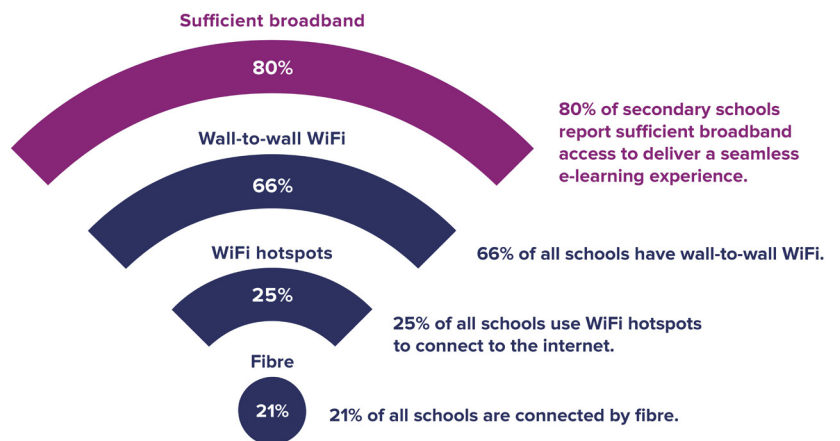
Access to Technology and the Internet

Schools reporting fundraising for technology



Demographic differences in fundraising for technology exist across school communities.

Percentage of elementary schools fundraising for technology, by family income



80% of secondary schools report sufficient broadband access to deliver a seamless e-learning experience.

66% of all schools have wall-to-wall WiFi.

25% of all schools use WiFi hotspots to connect to the internet.

21% of all schools are connected by fibre.

Inconsistencies in internet connectivity strength and type exist across school communities.

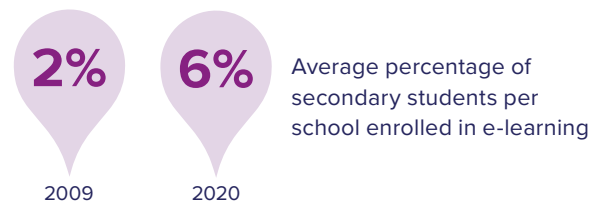
“Funding issues are key ... insufficient access to resources and supports can be barriers to successful implementation and integration of technology in schools”
(Dede, 2014; People for Education, 2019).

Online Learning Enrollment & Resource Supports

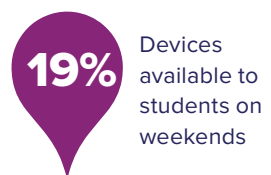
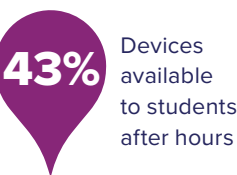
56% of schools have designated staff to support e-learning. Of those schools, the staff most commonly reported were:



92% of secondary schools in Ontario have students enrolled in e-learning courses but the actual enrollment per school is very small. In September 2020, the province plans to introduce mandatory e-learning for all students, with an opt-out option for some.



“E-learning requires costly infrastructure, and student retention is dependent upon students’ level of readiness and familiarity with a range of learning management systems (LMS)”
(Liu & Cavanaugh, 2011; Wang, Shannon & Ross, 2013).



91% of secondary schools report e-learning students have access to school laptops or computers during the school day but after hours access differs.

Making Schools Future-Ready

Teachers, principals, school board directors, and the staff who work directly with students across Ontario should be consulted, and we should use the knowledge in our faculties of education to ensure that any new policy – including e-learning – is based on evidence, knowledge, and experience. There is no doubt that technology can be a ground-breaking tool in education, but to be effective, it must be accompanied by an informed, coherent, and comprehensive strategy.

This data comes from People for Education’s 2019-2020 Annual Ontario School Survey. This year, 1,159 schools participated, representing 24% of public schools in Ontario. [View the full report here.](#)