

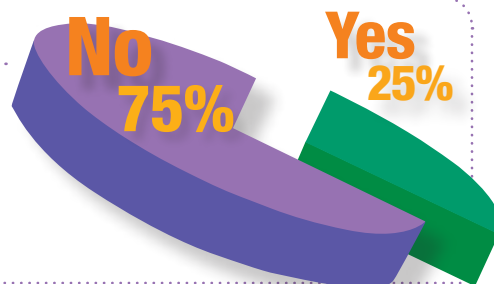
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## POLL RESULTS

### Is It Time to Move Our Data and Applications Online?

More than 75% of those who voted in our poll agree that it is not time to move data and applications online. However, the majority of respondents seem ready for the change.



#### Now Is The Time

School networks are dead. We just haven't realized it yet. All non face-to-face collaboration and interaction among students and teachers will become seamless regardless of time, place, or equipment. Anytime, anywhere means just that.

*Derrel Fincher  
The American School in São Paulo  
São Paulo, Brazil*

#### Makes Me Nervous

Accessibility of data online is invaluable and convenient, especially when many teachers and staff need to access it. The idea of applications strictly online makes me nervous—if the network is down, you're out of luck! With applications installed on individual machines, a network outage doesn't stop meaningful computer usage.

*Judith Epcke  
Kildeer Countryside Community  
Consolidated School District 96  
Long Grove, Illinois*

#### Get With The Program

I strongly believe we should provide applications and data online. Students need access to programs to accomplish tasks such as benchmark assessments as well as culminating assessments. Students need to be able to access and move data to create constructed assignments. There needs to be an open policy approach as opposed to a closed-minded policy concerning access and data. Yes, some students may overstep their

bounds. But, most will be responsible, innovative, and clever in providing high-quality assessments for teachers who are providing high-quality lesson plans. It's time to get with the program.

*Susan W. Keitel  
River Dell Middle School  
River Edge, New Jersey*

#### Just Isn't Realistic

In the ideal world that would be a very good thing, but realistically when we lose our Internet connection due to outside controls (circuits going down, other remote servers going down), we would literally be at a standstill in our district. If we have internal problems, we can usually solve them onsite within minutes and still have our essentials running (SIS, Intranet, etc.).

*Kathy Malaska  
Logan Township School District  
Logan Township, New Jersey*

#### It Makes Good "Cents"

As school network infrastructures and services become more robust and feature-rich, it makes fiscal sense to invest in online applications and data resources where IT staffs can centralize maintenance and support.

*Guy Ballard  
Niles Township High School, District Office  
Skokie, Illinois*

#### Yes—With One Caveat

Absolutely. Online applications and data handling saves us maintenance, back-up, and upgrade costs. Access and connectivity are key to ubiquitous

technology use. Allowing teachers and students to work anytime/anywhere is now possible. The caveat—you must have available bandwidth for all users.

*Sharon Betts  
Maine School Administrative District 52  
Turner, Maine*

## LETTERS

#### Praise For "Measuring Up"

Your whole article [*Measuring Up*, Oct., 2006, (pp. 12–17)] was very well written and informative. I really liked the way you compared and contrasted each of the online assessment tools. I intend to use the ISTE tool with our eighth graders this year after we move from the modulars back into our refurbished school. We will be going to an eight-period schedule with common planning time for each team and more flexibility in the schedule, so that I might be able to schedule the assessment with a longer block of time to allow each student to finish, even if it is not with 100% accuracy. The beauty of the ISTE assessments is that the students can take the assessment as many times as they wish until they achieve 100% accuracy, and once they know what they are doing, it does not have to be in a scheduled class situation. They can even work on the assessments from home. As long as they log in with the number that is assigned to them, I will still get the results.

*Carolyn Stanley  
Anity Regional District #5  
Bethany, Connecticut*