

12TH ANNUAL

Educator Confidence Report:

Teaching and Technology



**WELCOME TO THE 12TH ANNUAL EDUCATOR
CONFIDENCE REPORT: TEACHING AND**

TECHNOLOGY—HMH’s study of how educators are feeling about the profession, the classroom, and the future of learning. In recent years, it has also become another way we hear directly from educators on how they are adapting to technology, and in particular, AI in education.

Educators are navigating a period of rapid change and increasing complexity. New technologies, including AI, are creating opportunities and prompting important questions about what belongs in classrooms and what doesn’t. As these discussions continue, educators are thoughtfully evaluating where technology can support their work, where caution is warranted, and ensuring technology is accelerating student growth without sacrificing the core of what makes teaching and learning uniquely human.

This moment is also one of concern, with parents, educators, and policymakers rightly asking hard questions about technology, privacy, attention, and the future of teacher-led instruction. Everyone who builds classroom tools should be taking them into account.

This year’s findings make clear that the future of education is not an “all technology” or “no technology” proposition. Educators are asking for solutions that are transparent, trustworthy, effective, and designed around real instructional needs first.

At HMH, we believe the most important work in any classroom is fundamentally human, and that technology is most powerful when it deepens the relationships that are the true engine of learning. Those beliefs anchor our guiding principles and the work we do every day.

We are committed to innovating in ways that help schools navigate this next chapter thoughtfully and responsibly.

We are grateful to the educators who shared their experiences with us this year, and to everyone who reads this report and acts on it.



JACK LYNCH
CEO, HMH

This year’s findings make clear that the future of education is not an “all technology” or “no technology” proposition. Educators are asking for solutions that are transparent, trustworthy, effective, and designed around real instructional needs first.



HMH'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON

Technology in the Classroom

- 1 The most important work in any classroom is human.
- 2 Evidence of efficacy should guide technology use in the classroom.
- 3 A high-quality, coherent curriculum is foundational to student success.
- 4 Every student should be able to access grade-level content.
- 5 Student data can strengthen instruction and deserves the highest standards of protection.

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PART 1

OUTLOOK ON

Teaching and Learning



“Educators have carried an enormous weight over the past several years, and this year’s data shows that weight is, slowly, beginning to lift. More educators feel positive about the profession than at any point in nearly a decade, and more administrators are choosing to stay. To me, that reflects something really hopeful: even through all this change, educators still believe deeply in their students and in the power of learning. Our job now is to make sure they have everything they need to be set up for success in this next chapter of education.”

FRANCIE ALEXANDER
SVP of Efficacy

Key takeaways

1



Educators are unconvinced that policy will drive progress.

The majority of educators say they lack confidence that the current direction of education policy will improve teaching and learning.

2



Mental health concerns narrowly outpace those related to funding.

Although these concerns have declined slightly since last year, educators remain most uneasy about the mental health of their peers and students.

3



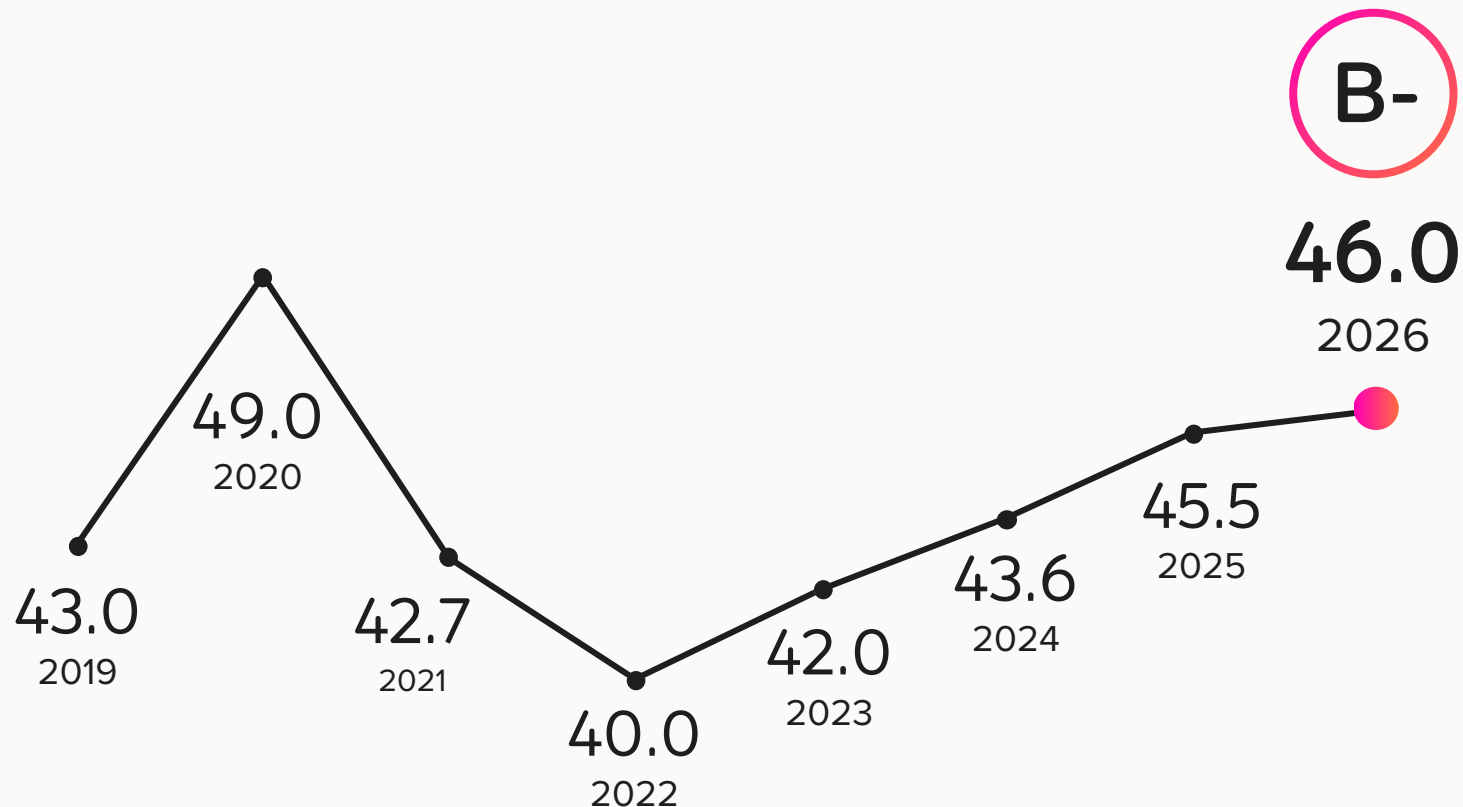
Resources should be tailored, not one-size-fits-all.

Educators believe classroom-level resources, such as well-integrated technology, are most likely to transform teaching and learning.



Educator Confidence Index:

A slow, but steady rise

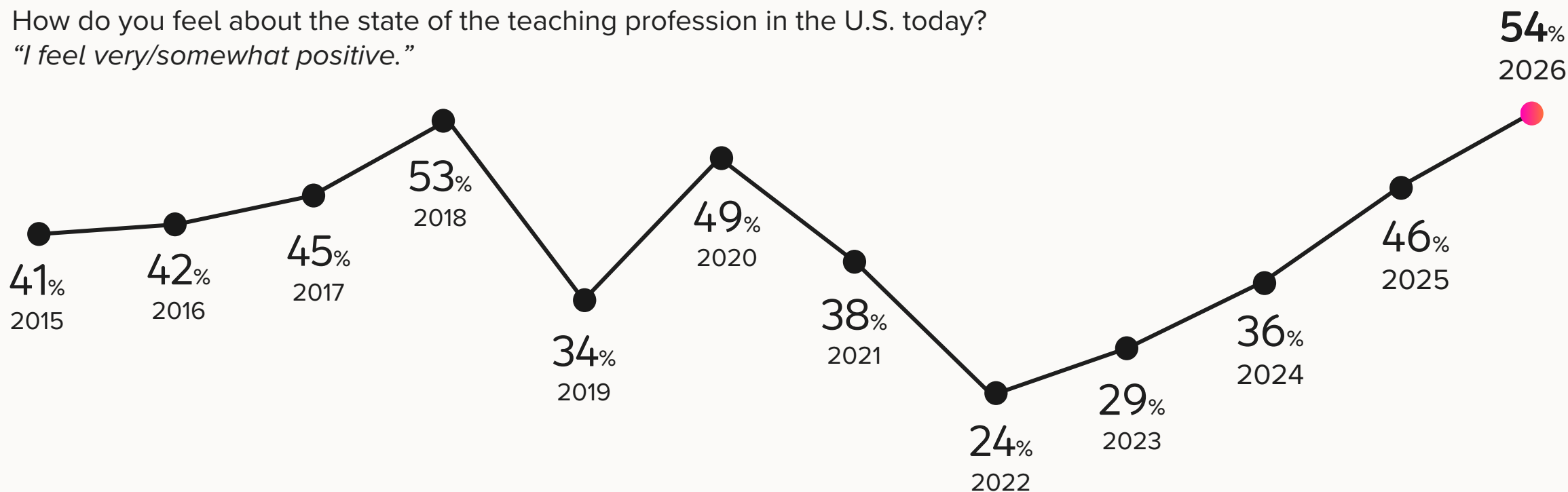


GRADING THE EDUCATOR CONFIDENCE INDEX

A: 58+ **B: 44–57** C: 31–43 D: 0–30

A majority of educators feel positive about the profession for the first time since 2018. 54% is the highest level of positive sentiment since the first ECR in 2015.

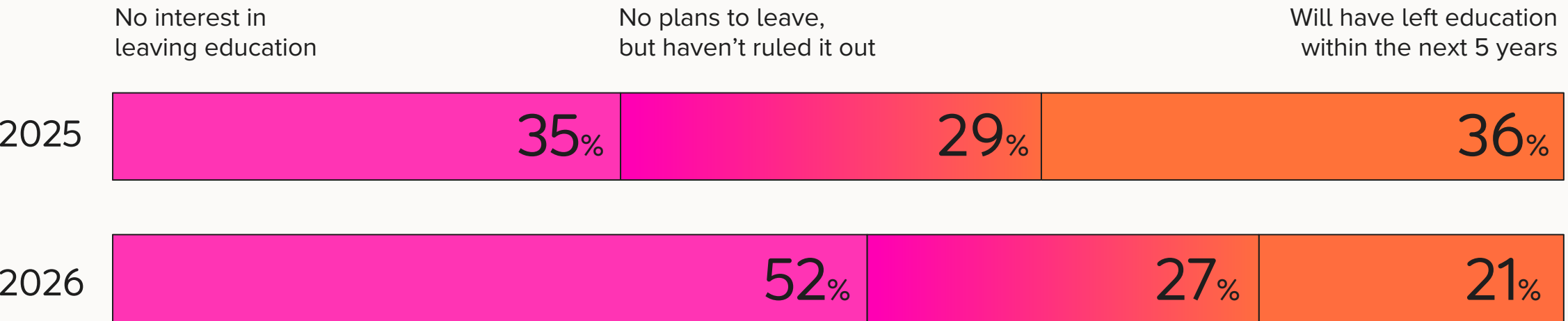
How do you feel about the state of the teaching profession in the U.S. today?
"I feel very/somewhat positive."



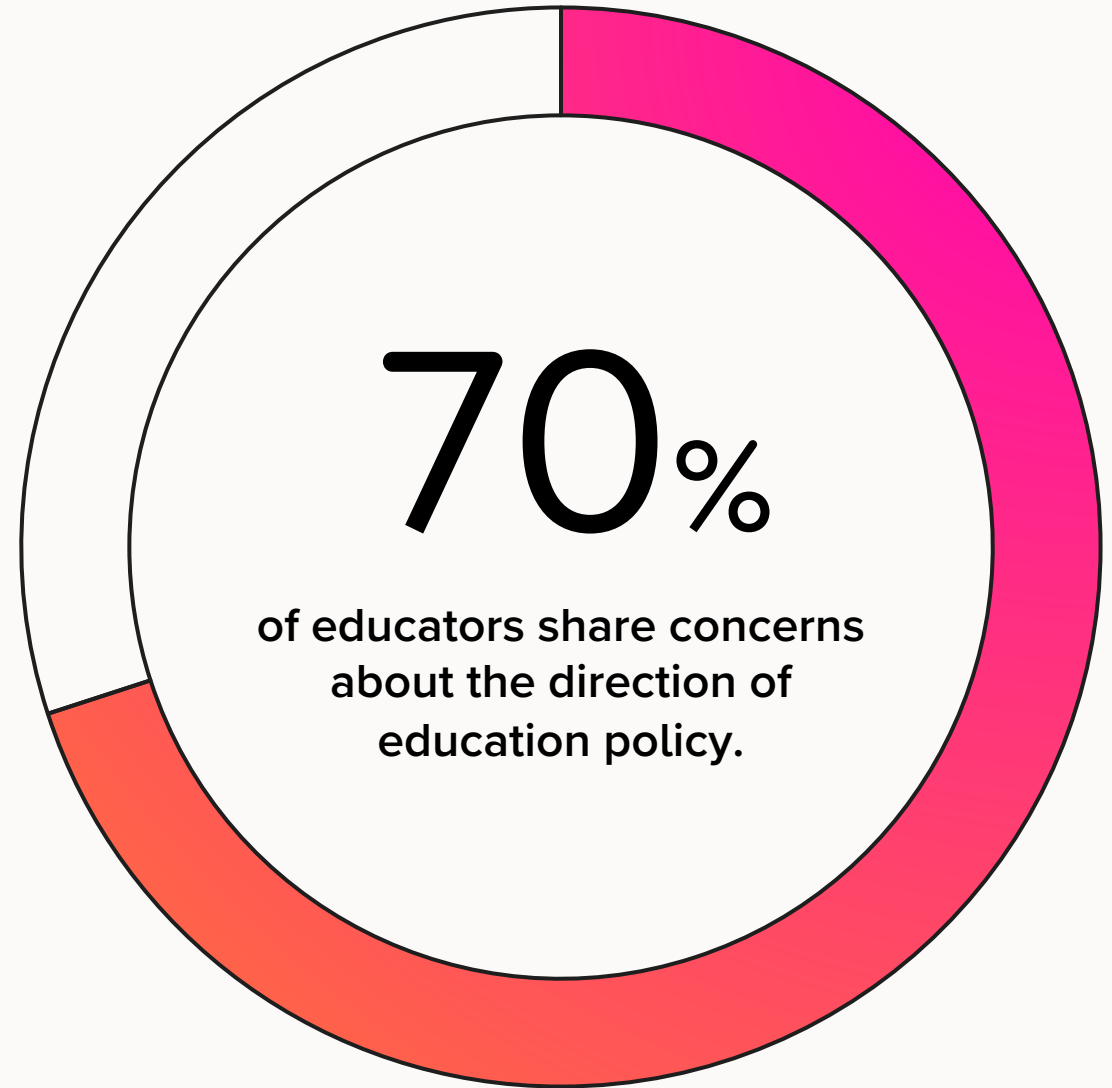
More administrators are deciding to stay in the field.

The majority of administrators (52%) say they have no interest in leaving the profession, up 17 points from last year.

Career retention intent for administrators:



Educator confidence reflects uncertainty about the direction of education policy, suggesting there is room for improvement.



Mental health outpaces decreased funding as the top concern.

While these concerns have each declined since last year, mental health and decreased funding remain top of mind for educators.

TOP 3 EDUCATOR CONCERNS

1

Concerns about fellow educators' mental health

2

Concerns about students' mental health

3

Decreasing funding and support for education

Educators believe personalized resources and better integrated technology would most transform teaching and learning.

When technology connects high-quality curriculum, instructional materials, and assessment data, educators can better meet the unique needs of each classroom.

1

Greater commitment to providing classroom-level resourcing, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach to resourcing

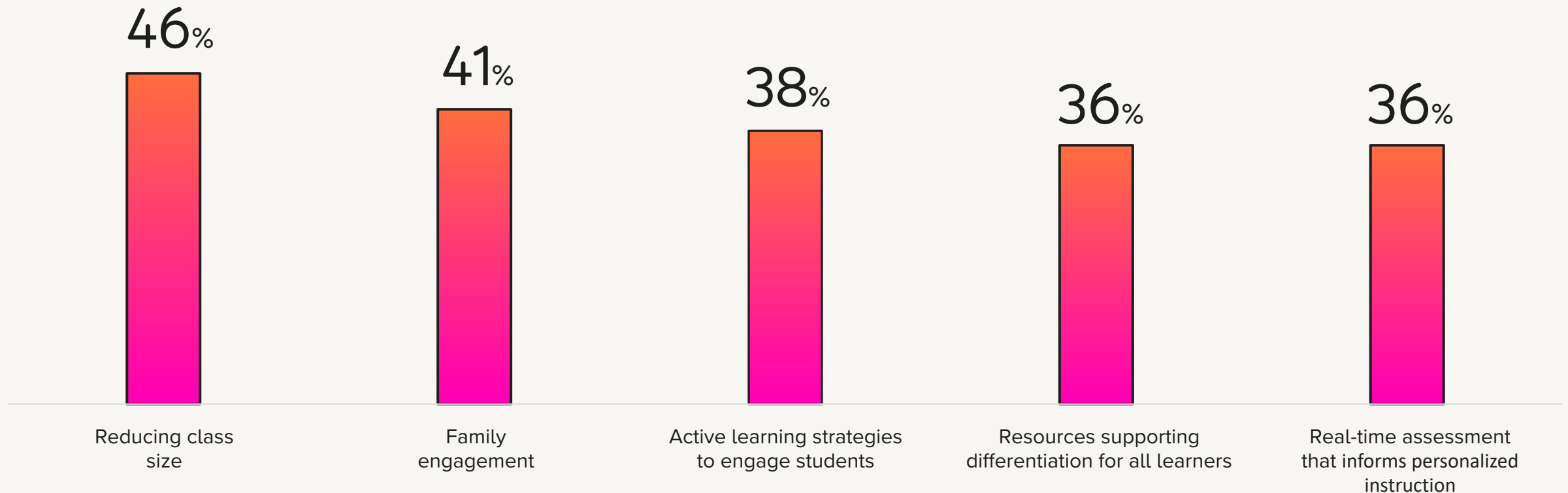
2

Well-designed curriculum with built-in frameworks for integrating edtech more effectively

3

Technology solutions that connect instruction, including supplemental and remediation, and assessment on one platform

Smaller classes and family engagement top educators' list of factors that accelerate achievement, followed by student engagement, differentiated learning, and actionable assessment data.



PART 2

OUTLOOK ON

Classroom Technology



“Students learn when someone sees them, challenges them, and helps them believe in themselves. Technology can support many parts of learning, but it cannot replace the relationship between a teacher and a student. The exciting thing about AI, when done right, is that it can strengthen that connection by giving educators more time, better insight, and more space to be present for their students. As more educators embrace these tools, we have an opportunity—and a responsibility—to shape an AI future that is both high-tech and deeply human.”

FRANCIE ALEXANDER
SVP of Efficacy

Key takeaways

1



**AI is here to stay,
even as worries remain.**

Nearly all educators are using AI, understand its potential benefits, and feel confident in their ability to use it effectively; however, they recognize its risks and the importance of training and guardrails.

2



**Coherence is AI's
next big challenge.**

Educators are not asking for more disconnected tools. They want AI that is integrated within a high-quality curriculum and guidance that connects to the classroom.

3

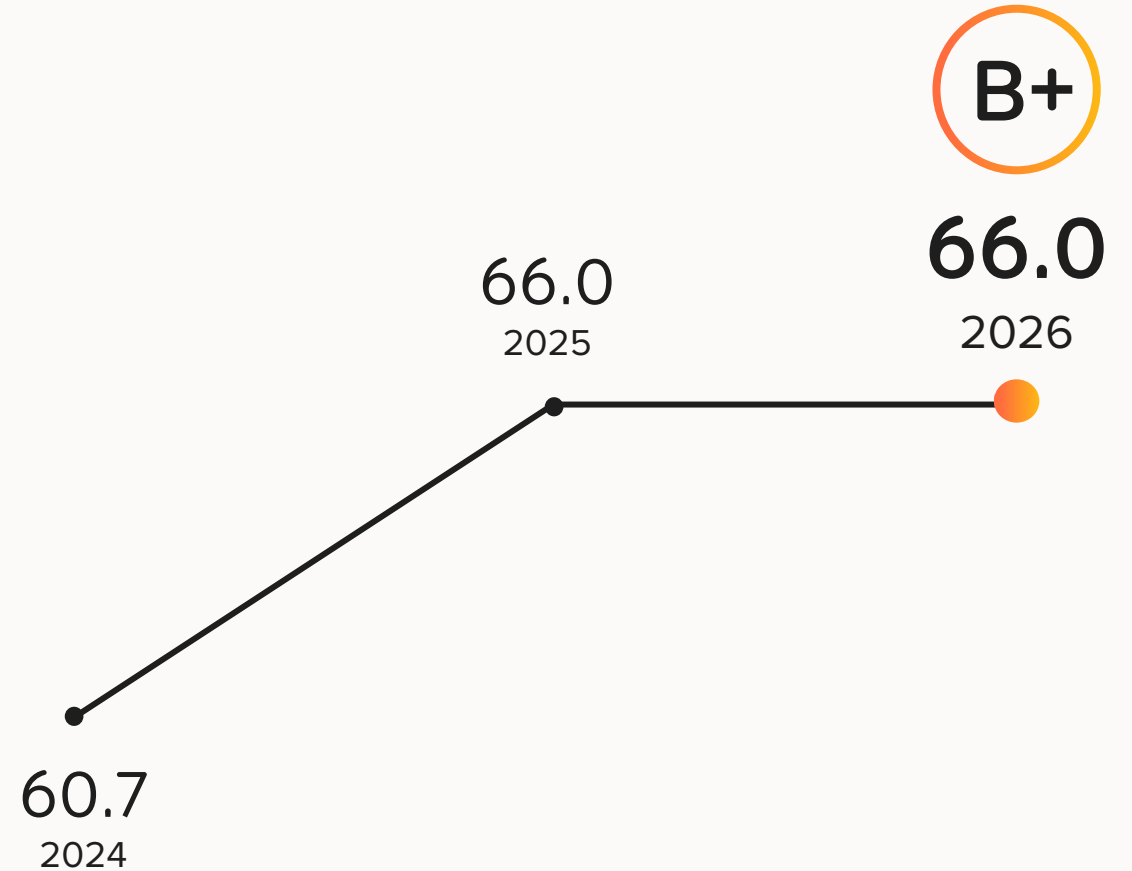


**Technology works best
when it makes learning
more human.**

The majority of educators believe technology can accelerate student growth, and say it is most effective at driving student engagement and increasing accessibility.



AI Confidence Index holds steady after rising in 2025.



GRADING THE AI CONFIDENCE INDEX

A: 70+

B: 50–70

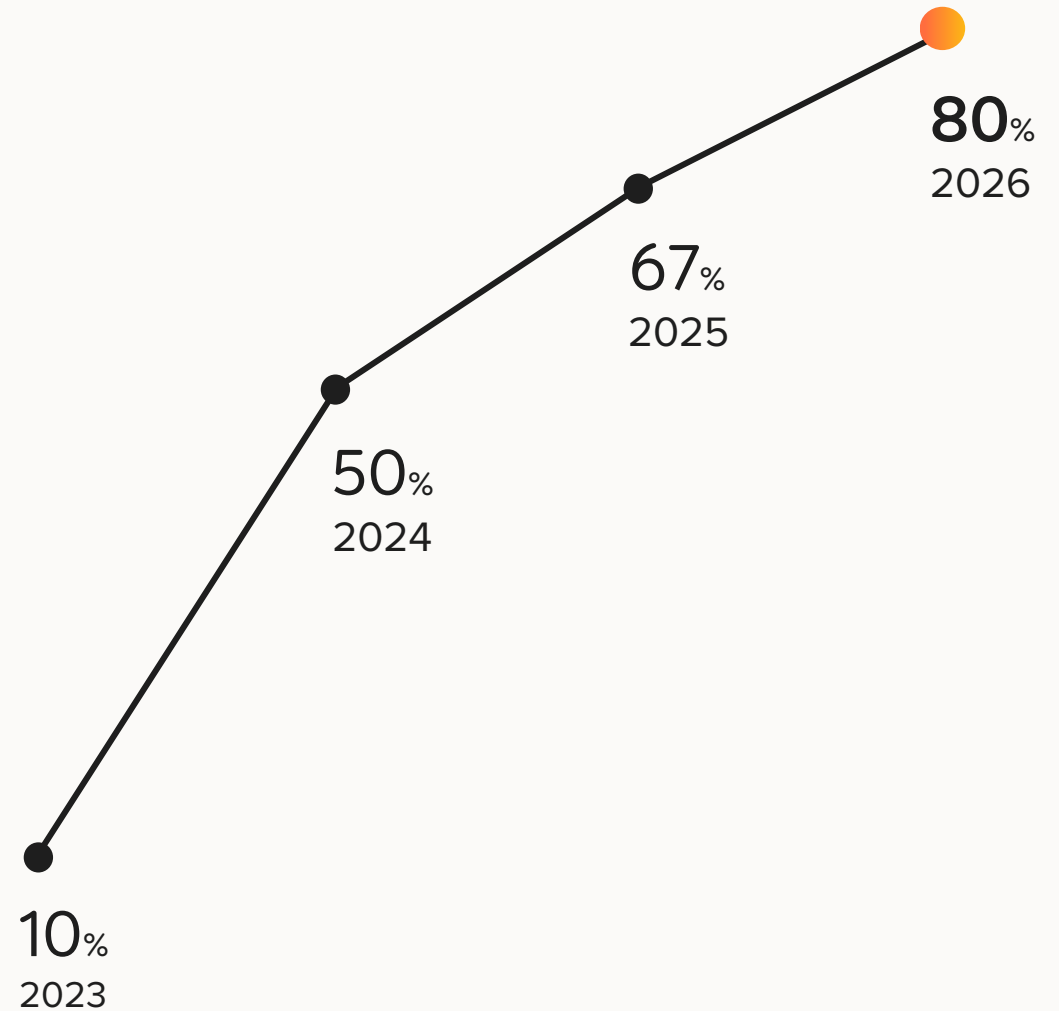
C: 25–49

D: 0–24

The AI revolution is happening now.

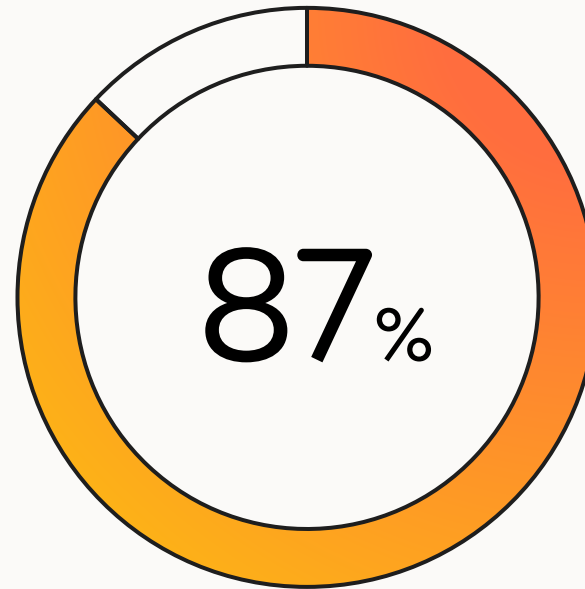
8 in 10 educators say they incorporate AI tools into their workflow or classroom.

During this past school year, did you incorporate AI-powered edtech tools into your workflow and/or classroom?

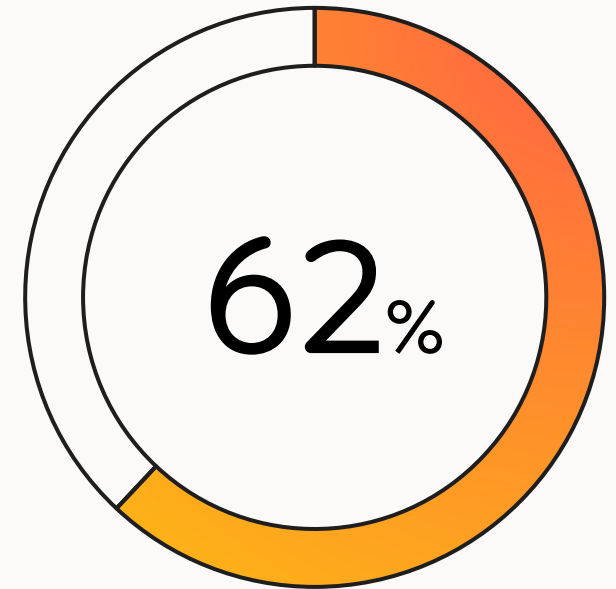


A vast majority of educators are confident in their ability to use AI in an instructionally effective way.

The majority also feel confident that they know what to teach students to prepare them for an AI-powered world, up 13 points from last year.



of educators feel confident that their AI use is instructionally effective.



are confident that they know what to teach students to prepare them for an AI-powered world.

As AI use and confidence have increased, so have concerns about overdependence and preserving the teacher's role.

TOP 3 AI CONCERNS

(Among educators who use AI)

- 1 Overdependence by students
- 2 Plagiarism
- 3 AI will devalue human-led educational instruction

Educators want AI integrated into the work they *already* do, not added on top.

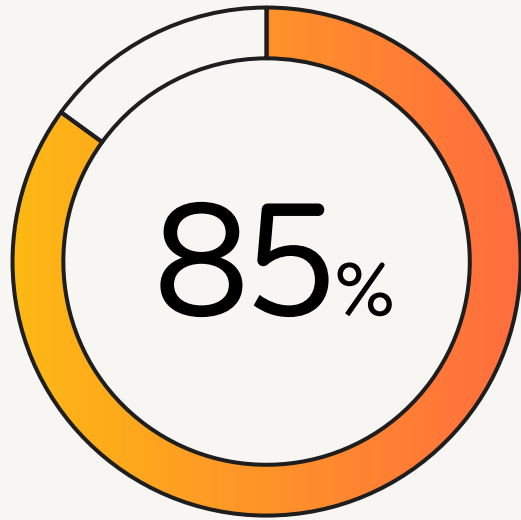
50%

of administrators want better alignment to the current curriculum, not just “add-ons.”

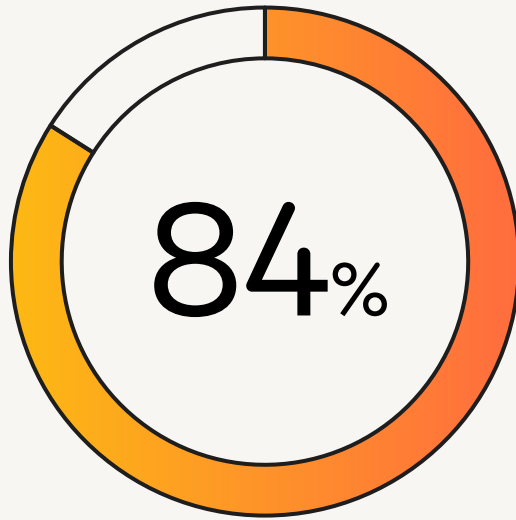
44%

of teachers want professional learning that feels practical, not overwhelming.

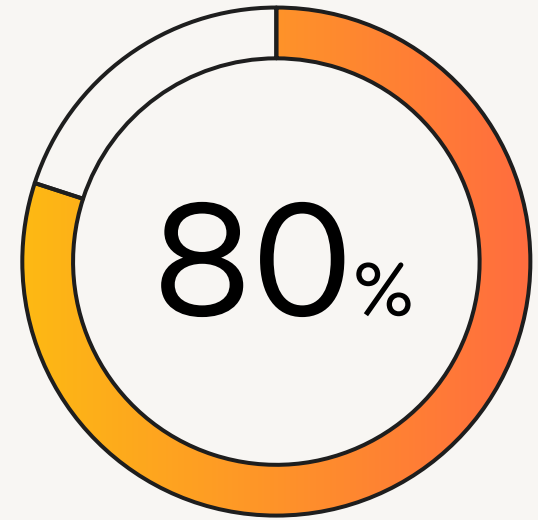
Educators overwhelmingly agree:
AI can improve accessibility and strengthen learning
outcomes, but guardrails are paramount.



say AI should be
harnessed positively
and used ethically.



say AI has the potential to
support academic growth.



say AI increases access to
educational opportunities
for all learners.

9 in 10 educators are open to receiving more AI training.

77% of educators have received AI training, up from 65% in 2025. Rather than one-size-fits-all AI training, educators say support is most effective when it is collaborative and connected to their own school communities.

TOP 3 MOST IMPACTFUL TRAINING TYPES

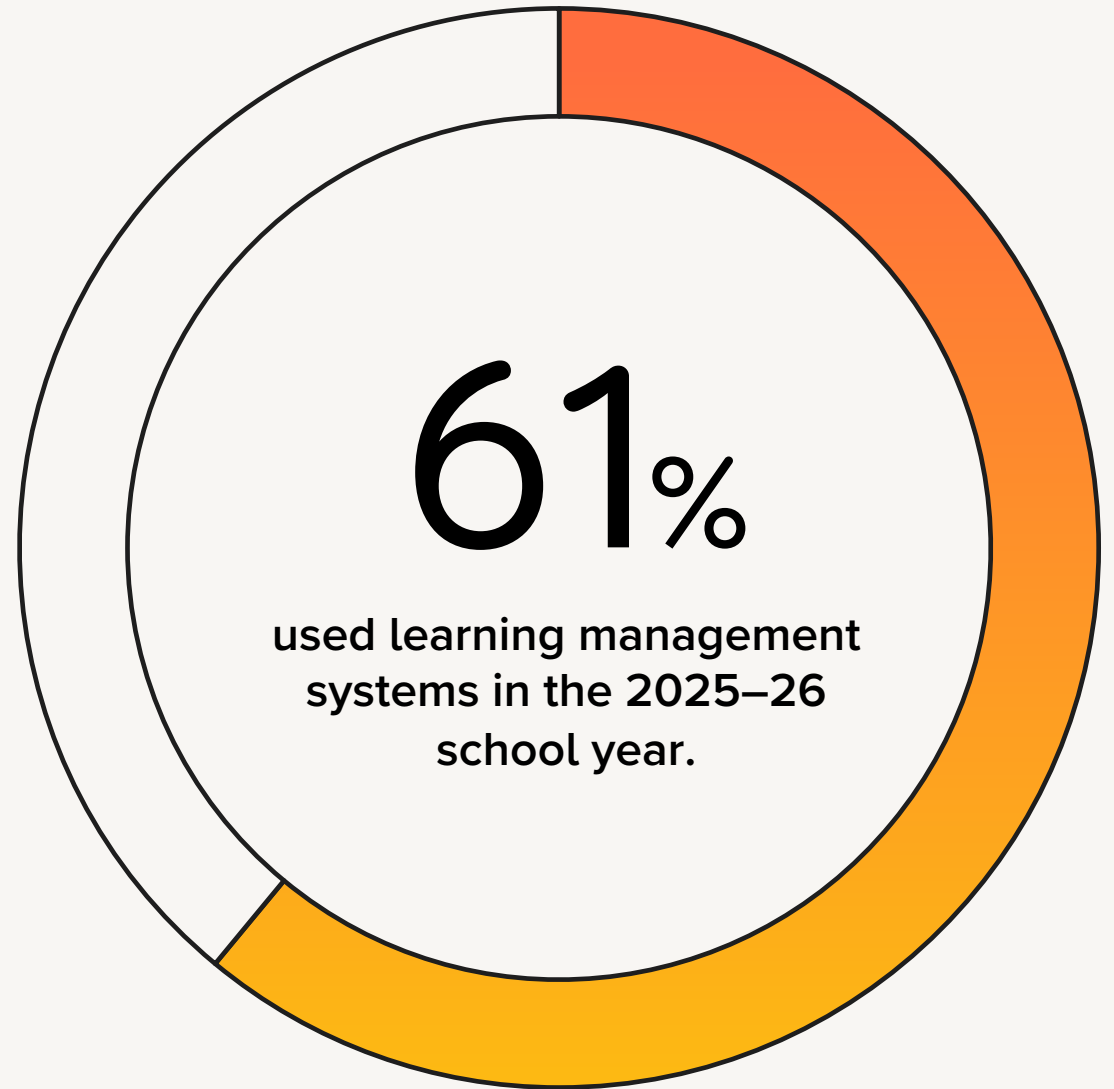
1 District or school level PD session

2 Professional learning communities

3 Peer mentoring and coaching

Overall, 98% of educators feel confident using educational technology in an instructionally effective way.

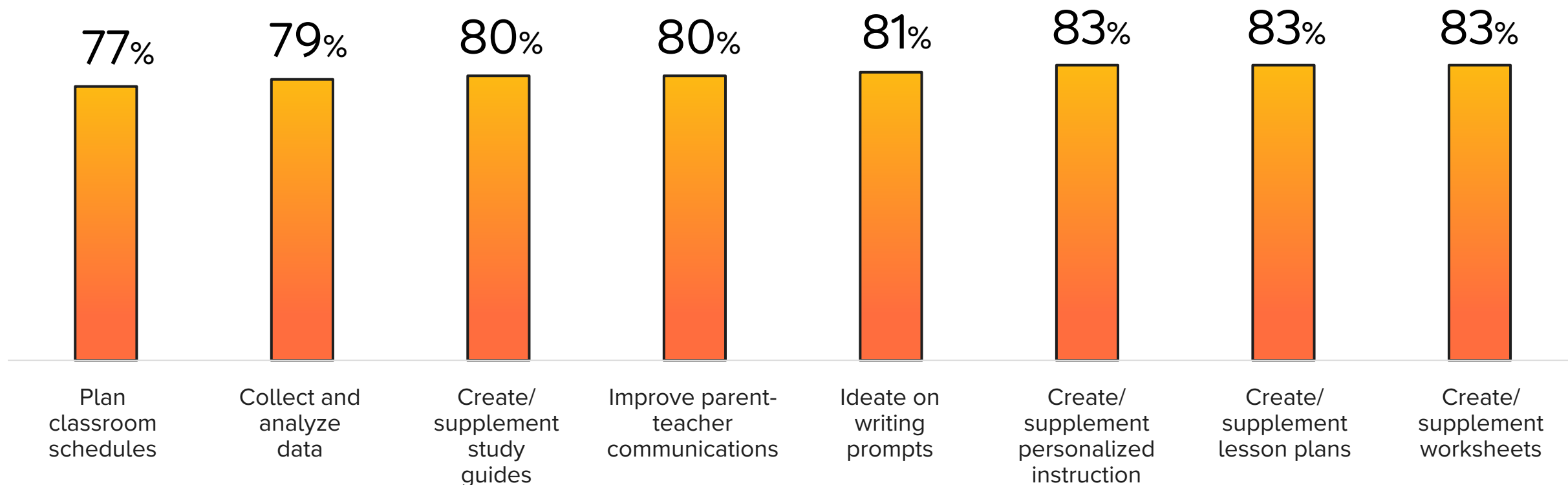
The most used edtech tools in the classroom are learning management systems, which work in the background, helping teachers organize and deliver instruction.



Educational technology helps personalize teaching, streamline administrative tasks, and turn data into insight.

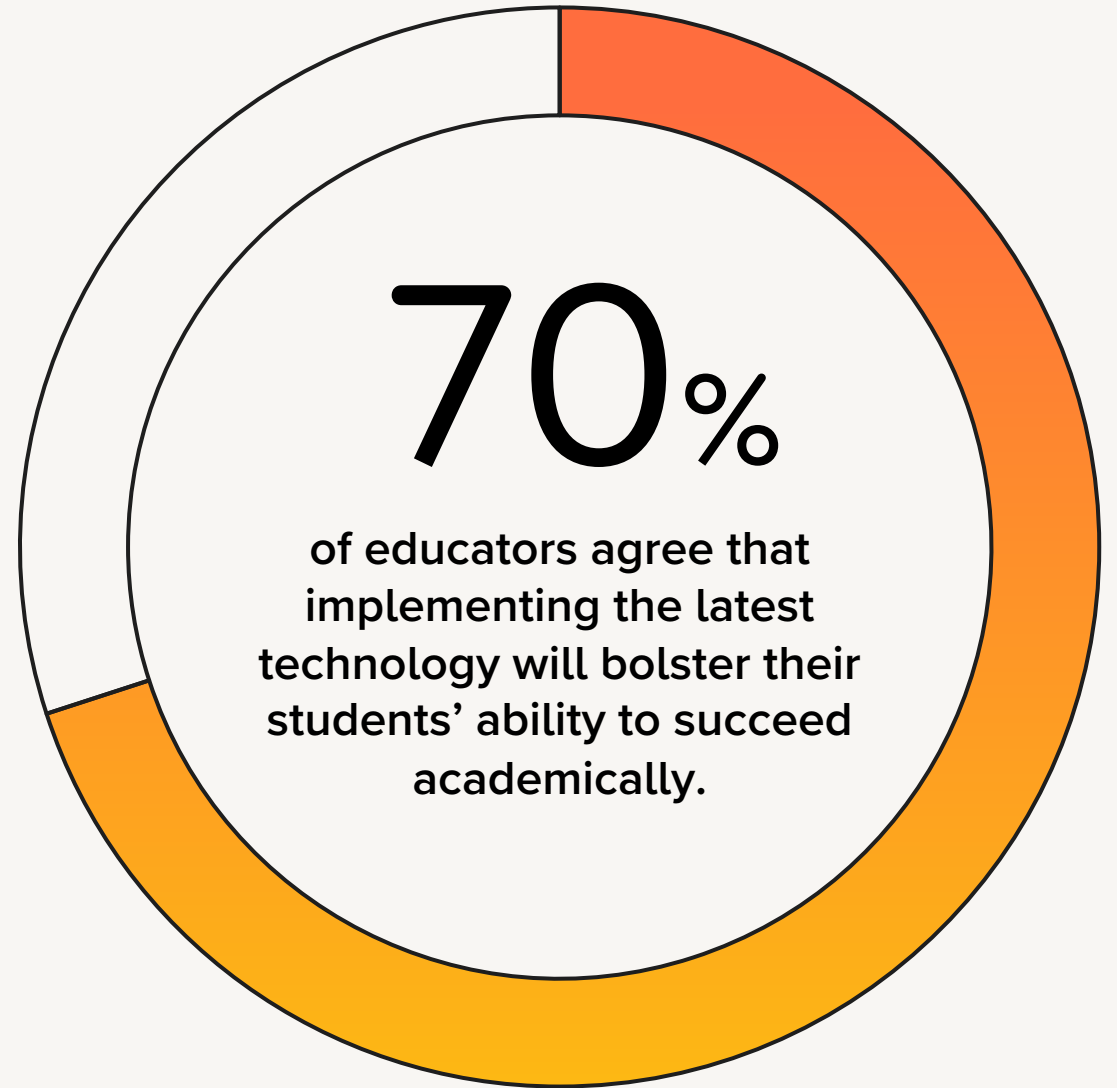
How well are edtech tools supporting educators?

Extremely Well / Somewhat Well



**Nearly 3 out of 4
educators believe
that technology can
accelerate student
growth.**

By helping teachers boost efficiency and meet students where they are, technology unlocks time and insight that can supercharge instruction.



Top 3 benefits of technology in the classroom

The tools educators believe are most vital drive high engagement through interactive experiences, making learning more human and teaching more effective.

1



**Improved student
engagement with learning**

2



**Improved student access
to instructional content
anytime/anywhere**

3



**Improved student
achievement**

“The vision of AI as a tireless, personalized tutor for every student is a tempting goal, but it mistakes efficiency for education. It optimizes the transmission of content while leaving aside the things that actually make learning stick, like a teacher who notices when something is off, who adjusts mid-lesson, who makes a student feel genuinely seen. Those things don’t happen on a screen. They happen in a classroom, between people.”

JACK LYNCH

CEO, HMH

Read more on [Fast Company](#).



For 12 years, HMH has surveyed educators on the state of education, their profession, and the needs of students.

Explore our archive of Educator Confidence Reports: hmhco.com/ecr

1,200 educators

Including 1,050 teachers and 150 administrators

14-minute survey

Carried out online via desktop and mobile

March 23–April 3

Data was collected over a 2-week period

Coast to coast

Data was weighted to be nationally representative