**<http://www.thetechedvocate.org/pros-cons-edtech-classroom/>**

**What Are the Pros and Cons of EdTech in the Classroom?**

No matter how much value edtech adds to your classroom, there will always be skeptics hovering close by. On the flip side, if you’ve never been an edtech supporter, it’s likely there are educators in your district advocating for an online math tutorial or digital textbook.   
If you’re looking to educate yourself on the widespread edtech debate, we’re breaking down arguments that parents, teachers, students, and policy makers on both sides have contributed to recent conversations about classroom technology.

[Harry Keller](https://www.linkedin.com/in/harryekeller) I think that Matthew has exaggerated both pros and cons a bit.  
  
Pro #1: access to infinite information. Problem: much of it is inaccurate.  
Pro #2: automate tedious tasks. Problem: much of this cannot yet be done automatically. You can save some paper. That helps administrative assistants, not teachers.   
Pro #3: digital citizenship, etc. Problem: this is not automatic.  
Pro #4: customized learning: Problem: this idea is only beginning to show promise and only in a few subjects, mostly math and ELA.  
Con #1: possible distraction: Only if the learning software is not engaging.  
Con #2: promote inequality: This real problem can be addressed creatively.  
Con #3: loss of human connection: How is this different from reading a book or a textbook?  
Con #4: may replace teachers: This is a straw-man argument. There is just no way that computers can replace teachers in the near term (except for the really poor ones).

[Harry Keller](https://www.linkedin.com/in/harryekeller) I have some different ideas about ed-tech in the classroom.  
1. Most ed-tech is junk. It does not advance learning. It costs more than what it replaces. It may even slow down the learning process in some cases. Technology is supposed to be "better, faster, cheaper."  
2. Schools must have people who can tell the difference between good ed-tech and junk. Too many don't.  
3. Too many schools and districts use the wrong criteria to choose ed-tech solutions for learning. (I say nothing about administrative ed-tech.) Will your new technology support your goals at low cost, preferably below what it replaces?  
4. Schools focus on math and ELA programs that promise to boost test scores. However, what really counts is learning to think well. Beyond a minimum amount of learning, additional "training" just deepens the memory rut. Students must be confronted with making decisions and reasoning beyond the simple reproduction of text material -- beyond the "plug and chug" of math.Show less

[Harry Keller](https://www.linkedin.com/in/harryekeller) How will you find ed-tech that boosts thinking skills? Look at science and social studies (e.g. history and civics). While most programs in these areas don't focus on thinking, the subjects themselves provide ample room for real creative and critical thinking. Seek out programs that don't always ask the easy questions. Students love challenges -- that they have a chance of solving. Give them ed-tech that does that.

[Veronique Genniker(PhD)](https://www.linkedin.com/in/veronique-genniker-phd-b063526a) Blended learning is the way to go as learners will always need the human interaction

[Hamilton Cruz, M.Ed](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hjcruz) Instructors have to be more hands on when engaging students online. Tech without the human interaction like

[Veronique Genniker(PhD)](https://www.linkedin.com/in/veronique-genniker-phd-b063526a) states is the way to go. Without it you get a lot of what [Harry Keller](https://www.linkedin.com/in/harryekeller) is describing. I get this sense that many people think that you just switch it on and that is it. A skilled instructor who familiar with tech tools and knows how to engage learners can over come the cons. It just takes more time and energy.