

# Innovation Leader Executive Summary: *Digital Landscapes in Australian Schools 2023*

Heads of Innovation and ICT leaders are tasked with balancing the vision of the leadership team with the practical and commercial considerations of delivering digital implementation. This summary distills key findings from *Digital Landscapes in Australian Schools 2023*, a report on challenges and opportunities around digital implementation in schools.

The report was commissioned by Champion Education to examine how school leaders are planning and implementing technology strategies. 135 senior staff from Australian schools participated.

## Key Findings

- The leading **technology strategy decision makers** in schools are typically Director of Innovation & eLearning, and Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning, closely followed by IT Director / Manager, and Principal.
- Over half of surveyed schools have embraced a **dual learning approach**, integrating both digital and print tools and resources. More than one-third of schools express a strong desire to deepen their digital commitment, with the goal of achieving a highly tech-enabled environment in the short to medium term. **Tangible plans** include roadmaps and implementation committees.
- Schools are moving quickly. Close to 20% of schools aim to increase their tech enablement within the next 12 months; a similar cohort plans for three+ years. Many schools are proactively enhancing their **digital capacity** including platforms and systems. Professional development and up-skilling for teachers emerge as crucial themes.
- **Cost of access** remains a critical factor in ensuring equitable technology access across communities.
- **Widely adopted technologies** include PDF textbooks, interactive textbooks, digital learning software, and Learning Management System (LMS) tools. Key factors in seeking commercial partners include affordability for families, provision of quality curated content, cost efficacy for school, data management and adherence to privacy policies. Most popular and lesser used technologies are listed on page 8 of the report.
- **Key commercial considerations** include the cost of hardware and software for students, clarity of available information, and funding capacity.
- **Staff technical skills** are critically important and pose significant challenges, highlighting the need for ongoing training and development.

## In Conclusion

Innovation Leaders prioritise keeping a wide view on educational tech trends to deliver improved learning experiences and management that strategy demands, and must factor in affordability, content quality, cost-effectiveness, data management, and privacy / security requirements.

Ensuring balanced budgets means considering hardware and software costs alongside funding for access; and recognition of varying staff tech skills drives ongoing investment in ongoing training to harness the full potential of technology and drive innovation.

## Next Steps

- Complete report is enclosed.
- Use the report to benchmark your school and review your technology strategy.
- Champion's Digital Landscapes program can offer a one-on-one strategy session with school ICT special consultant Steven Archibald, at no charge. To apply contact [research@champion.com.au](mailto:research@champion.com.au)