LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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Virtualization Solutions for Education

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The students of today have more access to technology than ever before, and it is important for school officials and educators to tap into the tools that are available. Technology will be a critical necessity as they continue into the future and succeed in life. By embracing the technology that is available to students and educators now, schools are in a unique position to encourage and support a path toward success that is comprehensive yet affordable.

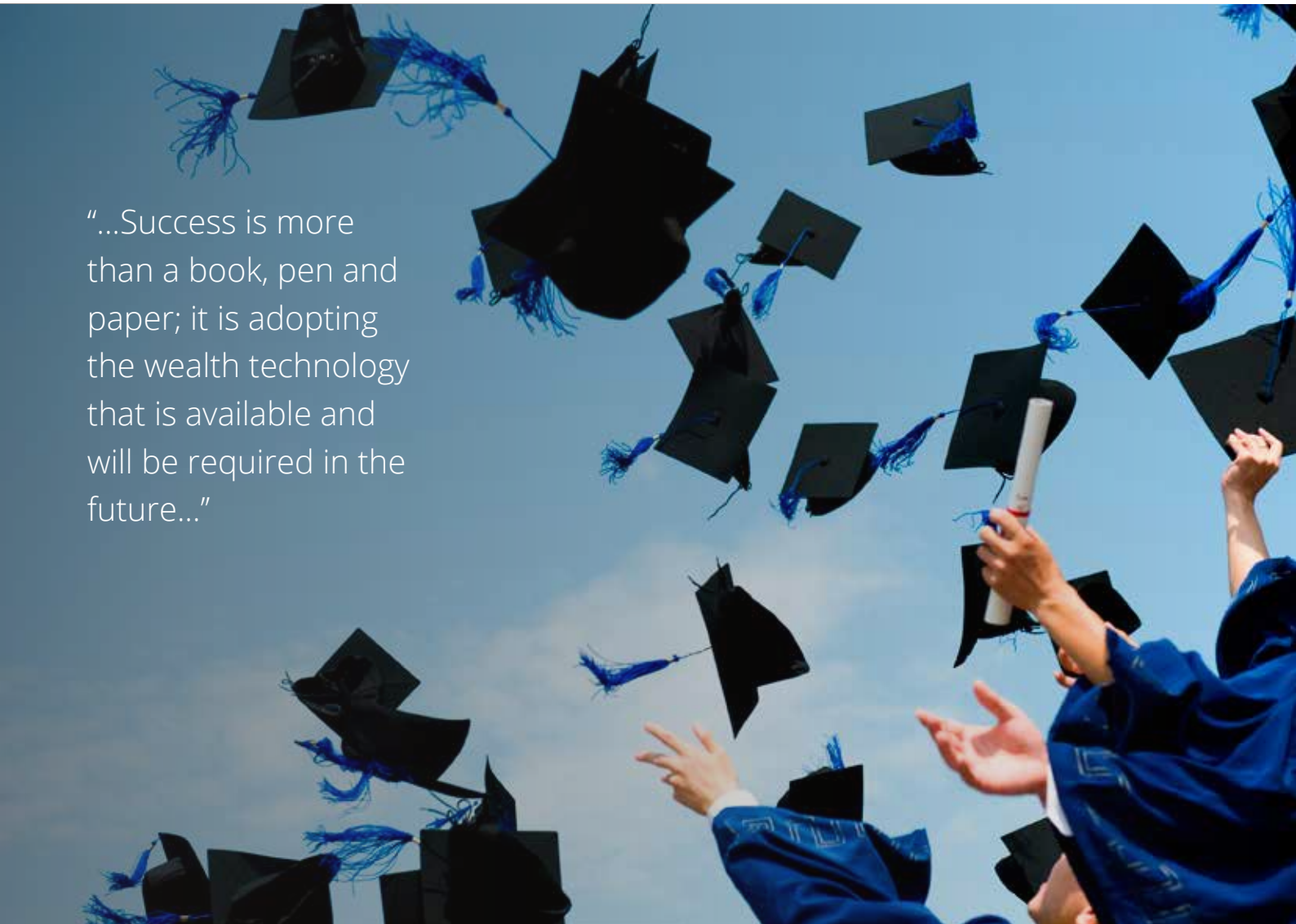
According to a 2010 study conducted by Project RED, technology helps schools save money; it reduces paperwork; and increases student engagement. Project RED identified the successes of technology in the education system, but the Project RED team also stressed the importance of commitment and consistency when implementing new technologies and modern learning strategies. Success is more than a book, pen and paper; it is adopting the wealth technology that is available and will be required in the future.

Technology in the classroom doesn't have to be expensive to make a difference. Thousands of schools are finding ways to make a difference and transform the learning experience without going into debt. According to Project

RED, a properly implemented strategy will have an impact if it consists of 9 major factors:

- Technology is available in every class period
- Administrators allow teachers to learn and collaborate monthly
- Students use technology daily to collaborate online
- Technology is used in the core curriculum more frequently
- Assessments are done on a weekly basis
- Lower student-computer ratios
- Monthly virtual class trips
- Students have daily access to search engines
- Principals are trained to use the technology

For educators and administrators concerned about the cost of technology, they will notice that money is not necessary to implement the 9 technology strategies for student success. Many of the factors embrace common habits



"...Success is more than a book, pen and paper; it is adopting the wealth technology that is available and will be required in the future..."

of the modern-day student. Students are more engaged when they are working with and have access to tools that excite them, so why not capture that attention when they are in class? Add wireless access for mobile devices across campus, and you'll be able to fully take advantage of technology to increase student achievement.

Everyone Can Benefit From Technology

Everyone within the walls of the school can benefit from the use of technology, and it may only require the computers that are available to the students and staff. Many schools have purchased tablets and smart boards, but whatever the technology, the goal should be a hands-on experience. Project RED stresses that the use of technology on a daily

basis contributes to better discipline, attendance, and college attendance.

- Technology reduces the need for unnecessary paper and correspondence because documents, messages and tests can be made available online.
- Teachers, students, and parents can communicate more often
- Students can use search engines and online communities to research and contribute to classroom instruction and projects
- Students can interact with students across the globe from their desk
- Virtual field trips provide the teacher and students with a unique perspective and insight into a location that they can't see within the pages of a text book alone
- Educational games online will engage more students and expand their ability to analyze and process instruction

Administrators and educators can use these strategies to create a one-of-a-kind lesson plan that is tailored to the high-tech kids of today and leaders of tomorrow.

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