Educator Commentaries

While parents are at the forefront of the battle against edtech overuse, many teachers are equally concerned about how edtech can harm students' health and learning, as well as edtech's impact upon the teaching profession itself. These recent commentaries and blog posts provide insight into their perspectives.

What Does "Personalized Learning" Even Mean?
Curdmudgucation Blog
August 10, 2019
Reasons to read: In this blog, Peter Greene, a former middle and high school English teacher, critically assesses the term "personalized learning," which marketers usually claim is the goal of educational technology. In fact, as Greene points out, the term has many meanings, and technology introduction often results in the *de-personalization* of learning as students spend less time interacting with peers and teachers.

Top 7 Ways Technology Stifles Student Learning in My Classroom
Gadfly on the Wall Blog
July 31, 2019
Reasons to read: Steven Singer, a middle school language arts teacher from Pennsylvania, outlines the ways that edtech undermines public education.

EdTech Utopia is Over
EducationNext
April 24, 2019
Reasons to read: This is a thorough, hard-hitting critique of the edtech industry by a former teacher and charter school administrator Steven F. Wilson.

Give Us Personalized Learning without the Algorithm
Renegade Teacher Blog
April 21, 2019
Reasons to read: This insightful blog by a Detroit-area high school social studies teacher puts edtech in the context of other education reform initiatives, predicting it will be used to promote standardized testing and replace teachers with tech. He contrasts the technology-first approach pushed by the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative to the methods employed in Zuckerberg's own schooling at Phillips Exeter Academy.

Lies You Have Been Told About Educational Technology
Wait Until 8th Blog
March 6, 2019
Reasons to read: Matt Miles and Joe Clement, award-winning high school teachers in Virginia and co-authors of the book, *Screen Schooled*, summarize the myths that have allowed the edtech industry to gain a foothold in K-12 education.

[Tech Companies Are Buying Their Own Education Research. That's a Problem](#)
Edweek
February 6, 2019
Reasons to read: Matt Miles focuses on the health and social-emotional consequences of the drive to promote edtech, despite the lack of evidence that it actually improves learning outcomes. Miles highlights how much of the hype behind edtech is based on industry-sponsored studies of dubious value.

[Personalized (Online) Learning Fails at Classroom Dynamics and Socialization](#)
Nancy Bailey's Education Website
November 24, 2018
Reasons to read: Nancy Bailey, a former middle and high school special educator, writes about the high socialization costs of moving education online.

[I gave my students iPads — then wished I could take them back](#)
The Washington Post
December 2, 2015

Reasons to Read: In this excellent op-ed, Launa Hall, a DC-area third grade teacher, reflects on how a new 1:1 iPad program had her students isolated on screens rather than connecting with each other. She, like many teachers, appreciates the power of technology but worries that it has too much power over young children, and is concerned about the loss of communication skills that often accompanies screen overuse.

Selected Articles about Edtech and Teaching

A Union Perspective:

[Has the Personalized Learning Hype Worn Off?](#)

Tim Walker, *neaToday.* August 19, 2019

Loss of Teaching Jobs and Professionalism:

[Forty Percent of Elementary School Teachers' Work Could Be Automated By 2030, McKinsey Global Institute Predicts](#)
Benjamin Herold, *Education Week,* June 4, 2019

[How Google's Former China Chief Thinks AI Will Reshape Teaching](#)
Betsy Corcoran, *EdSurge*, December 11, 2018

[5 Risks Posed by the Increasing Misuse of Technology in Schools](#)
Diane Ravitch, *EdSurge*, December 29, 2017

Online Homework Issues:

How I lost the screen-time battle with my kids
Joe Mathews**,** *SF Chronicle*, May 5, 2019

Online Homework Conflicts with Parental Limits on Kids' Screen Time
Cait Etherington, *ELearning* newsletter, January 9, 2019