Engaging today’s students: Choosing the best display technology for your classroom
As an educator, you already know how important it is to engage your students. Classroom engagement increases attention and focus, boosts motivation and makes learning more meaningful.¹

In today’s world, making use of the right visual display technology is an important part of engaging your students—and transforming your classroom into an inclusive, collaborative learning environment.

Why are images so compelling to us as humans?

- Research indicates that between **65%** and **80%** of people are visual learners.²
- Information that’s presented visually is more likely to be stored in long-term memory. One foundational study showed that, after three days, students could recall only **10%–20%** of material presented orally or in writing but remembered **65%** of what was presented visually.³
- **75%** of all information processed by the brain is derived from visual formats.⁴
- Incorporating visual aids has been found to improve information retention by up to **400%**.⁵

There’s a caveat, however: These educational benefits will only be realized if all students can clearly see the visual display—no matter where they’re sitting in the classroom. In addition, today’s educators need technologies that are versatile and adaptable so that they can benefit students in remote and hybrid learning situations, as well as in flexible, modular or flipped classroom designs.

And school districts need solutions that are affordable, delivering high return on investment (ROI) along with reasonable total cost of ownership (TCO) through reliability and longevity.

In all of these areas, **projectors can be the preferred technology and, in many cases, projectors offer distinct advantages over traditional flat panel displays.**

Here’s why:
1. Help students read, absorb and remember content

Display size matters. Fine print can get lost on a small display. Along with where students are seated, display size can influence engagement, learning and retention.

Image size and quality (including brightness) directly impact students’ classroom experiences. Do they feel like they’re immersed in the presentation? Are they included in the discussion?

With Epson’s BrightLink 1485Fi 120-inch ultra-wide display, you get up to 95% more interactive space, on virtually any flat surface, versus a 75-inch flat panel. Not only is BrightLink’s display optimized for superior readability, but it offers interactivity to further engage students and improve learning outcomes.

This interactive display technology is highly intuitive for today’s students—who have grown up using mobile devices and tablets. It makes it easy for them to participate, share ideas and engage actively.
Teach from anywhere in the classroom

Just as educators are embracing ideas about learning as being a fluid, mutually beneficial process of information exchange, school districts and administrators are adopting more flexible and adaptable classroom designs.

Increasingly, rather than being places where information is delivered from a single, centralized point of instruction, classrooms are seen as reconfigurable according to the goals of the teacher, lesson plan or project.

Thus, it’s important to move away from display technologies that require inflexible student seating. Instead, what’s needed is a flexible solution that doesn’t compromise whiteboard learning space.

This is even more important in today’s 1:1 computing or bring-your-own-device (BYOD) environments. Not only do students need a clear view of the visual display, but they need to be able to connect the devices they’re most comfortable using and to do so wirelessly, regardless of where they’re seated.

Built-in wireless casting from Epson’s iProjection app makes this possible, supporting wireless casting from the teachers’ devices as well as those of up to 50 students.*

In addition, today’s educators must think beyond the classroom. Increasing numbers of school districts are incorporating independent or remote learning days into school calendars or emergency plans.

A visual display solution should be compatible with the most popular video conferencing solutions to ensure that remote collaboration is an inclusive experience that fosters positive learning outcomes.

Connect up to 50 student devices simultaneously,** so that students can display images, documents and webpages right from their own devices.
Now more than ever, school districts must make the most of limited budgets. They also need to maximize the value they gain from bond issues, grants and other funding sources. And they need to make the best possible use of their classroom space, regardless of how desk configurations may change or what other technology needs there are.

To achieve this goal, ease of use is critical. Teachers are at their most visionary and creative when they know how to make the best use of the display technology in their classrooms. Vendor support—putting extensive training resources at educators’ fingertips—is key for ensuring that they learn quickly.

Designed for use in classrooms, seminar rooms and study spaces, Epson BrightLink displays provide a fully integrated system that eliminates the need for a dedicated electronic whiteboard. You can turn an existing dry-erase whiteboard, plain wall or table into an interactive display area with no added hassle or cost.

When it comes to cost control, choosing a solution with road-tested reliability is key. High quality customer support also helps teachers avoid issues and minimize downtime. Competitive pricing matters, too. Epson’s BrightLink 1485Fi offers the lowest cost image per square inch when compared with interactive flat panel displays.***

Interoperability also matters. When a technology can be used in conjunction with the laptops, desktop computers and mobile devices that the school district already has, there are benefits for everyone. Students enjoy being able to use their favorite devices (whether those are district-issued or student-owned). And teachers experience efficiencies and ease of use. Also important: seamless compatibility with content sharing software and video communication platforms.
Endless possibilities for districts at the cutting edge of technology

Here’s how three school districts are leading the way:

CASE STUDY 1

Hoover High School, Des Moines Public School, Iowa

After Hoover High School won a $50,000 grant from the Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council to redesign learning spaces to inspire students to create and collaborate, administrators had a question: Which interactive display technology would best support their goal of upgrading the school’s STEM teaching and learning capabilities?

They chose Epson BrightLink interactive displays. Intended to promote students’ design thinking, the BrightLink interactive technology enables students, who have brainstormed new concepts, to share their ideas with larger groups of their peers. Chosen for their interactivity and flexibility, the BrightLink displays support teachers as they help students visually explore complex content in both whole class and small group learning environments.
CASE STUDY 2

Walled Lake Consolidated School District, Michigan

One of the first districts in the nation to implement a 1:1 laptop computing program, Walled Lake Consolidated School District has long been a technology pioneer. Their team carefully evaluates new devices before selecting a technology. In this case, they spent months testing projectors, interactive flat panels and annotation devices before settling upon the Epson BrightLink.

The district hoped to use interactive projection technology to help teachers develop effective, participatory lessons and give students enhanced opportunities to control and interact with academic content. Everyone found what they were looking for in the Epson BrightLink. Students enjoy the BrightLink’s finger touch capability, which allows any flat, light-colored surface to work like a giant touchscreen. Teachers appreciate the high image quality, exceptional customer service and extensive library of documentation and training videos.

In our primary schools, teachers love it because they can project two pages at a time, while in the high schools, they love that they can zoom in on small text and not lose image quality.

Mark Hess, Executive Director of Instruction, Technology and Assessment, Walled Lake Consolidated School District
Pflugerville Independent School District, Texas

Located just outside the fastest-growing city in the nation—Austin, Texas—Pflugerville Independent School District has experienced dramatic growth in recent years, with its student population swelling to 26,000 during that time. To keep up with this growth, the district built several new schools, equipping their classrooms with state-of-the-art technology. School district officials were looking for visual displays that would not only meet today’s needs but would be ready for tomorrow’s too.

Epson BrightLink ultra short-throw interactive displays fit the bill. The school district didn’t just install these displays in the new classrooms; older classrooms were upgraded as well. The BrightLink’s long lifespan meant that total costs of ownership were remarkably low while a strong, ongoing continuing education program is helping the teachers make the most of the BrightLink’s capabilities. Today, they’re creating versatile, touch-enabled lessons for engaging instruction and dynamic learning.
Conclusion

Today’s rapidly changing educational landscape demands intelligent, easy-to-use technology that inspires new ways of thinking. At Epson, we have over 40 years of experience developing groundbreaking educational tools to help engage students, promote collaboration and support faculty and administrators. Our comprehensive lineup of displays and projectors is designed to transform every classroom into a unique space for exploration and understanding. With uncompromising image quality and road-tested reliability, our solutions are a natural fit for any learning space.

Epson is the world leader in projection technology. Over 10 million students learn on Epson displays every day. You can learn more about Epson projectors for Education at Epson.com/projectors-education

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