



# Future Forward Education: Navigating the Next Wave of EdTech Disruption

Establishing a secure, scalable, and cost-effective infrastructure for more engaged learning.



From the introduction of the personal computer to the widespread adoption of the Internet of Things (IoT), each new wave of technological advancements has forced educators to adapt and evolve. The shift to remote and hybrid learning in recent years and a significant departure of educators have left institutions grappling with [lingering growing pains](#).

Many schools need help with siloed tools that don't integrate seamlessly (if at all), inadequate training materials, limited functionality, and customization, and, as a result, low usage rates. These challenges underscore the need for a proactive and strategic approach to implementing emerging technology, empowering schools to take control of the situation.

When so much has already been invested in an institution's tech infrastructure, it can be hard to justify additional changes. However, the potential for more advanced technology and improved ROI is within reach. By leveraging lessons learned over the past few years, we can refine our approach to blended learning, creating more engaging, inclusive, and effective educational experiences for all students. This is the promise of advanced technology in education.

**Explore how ePlus can help you meet your goals through a more proactive and strategic approach to implementing emerging technology.**



# The Emerging Technologies Transforming Education

Emerging technologies can transform how we use technology in and out of the classroom, significantly improving student engagement and easing educator workloads. Artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and multi-device connectivity are the technologies making the greatest waves within education.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI can process vast amounts of data far faster than the human mind. It's already changing the world, from automating customer support to helping with medical diagnoses. While valid concerns exist, such as student privacy and excessive dependence on technology, we must prepare students for this new reality.

Benefits of Utilizing AI:

- **Personalized learning:** Adapt to individual student needs, providing tailored content and feedback.
- **Accessibility:** Make learning materials accessible to all through text-to-speech, word predictions, and visual presentations of information.
- **Automation of administrative tasks:** Automate lesson planning, grading, and communication to free up time for more meaningful interactions with students.

## Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)

VR, with its ability to immerse users in a different environment, and AR, which overlays digital content in the real world, offer unique educational benefits. Their interactive nature, incorporating sight, hearing, and sometimes touch, allows educators to bring concepts to life in a way that traditional methods cannot.

Benefits of Integrating VR and AR:

- **Immersive learning experiences:** Engaging simulations and virtual field trips, enhancing student understanding and motivation.
- **Accessibility:** Provide access to experiences that may be otherwise unavailable due to location, cost, or safety concerns.

## Multi-Device Compatibility

Connecting various devices onsite and remotely is key to a blended learning experience. Multi-device compatibility ensures that students can engage with educational content and collaborate with their peers regardless of the technology they have at their disposal.

Benefits of Prioritizing Multi-Device Compatibility:

- **Seamless learning experiences:** Students can access educational content and resources across various devices (laptops, tablets, smartphones), promoting flexibility and continuity.
- **Collaboration and communication:** Multi-device connectivity is a powerful tool for facilitating real-time interaction and collaboration among students and teachers. It promotes active engagement and enhances the learning experience.

# Key Considerations for a Safe, Scalable, and Cost-Effective Digital Transformation

After the rush to facilitate remote learning during the pandemic, we saw the ongoing difficulties caused by implementing new technology without building or adapting the necessary infrastructure. Digital transformations require careful planning and execution to effectively harness the power of these tools and create meaningful learning experiences for all students.

[ePlus](#), a leading technology solutions provider, guides educational institutions at all levels through their digital transformation. We do this by understanding and assessing the institution's unique needs, reviewing and vetting options, implementing solutions, and providing ongoing support to ensure a safe, scalable, and cost-effective transition.

## Assess Goals and Objectives

Understanding your specific objectives is the first step in ensuring your network and infrastructure are optimized and able to support new tools and/or increased workloads. For example, when you choose to [integrate AI into your tech stack](#), you must determine if your intent is to simplify educator workstreams, provide an additional learning tool for students, assess campus security, or something else.

Once we understand your goals, we can help you determine how to optimize the tools you already have and the most effective way to integrate new technology.

### ePlus Advantage:

#### Infrastructure Transformation Workshop

In this complimentary workshop, ePlus will partner with you to determine where you are on the digital transformation continuum, and develop a detailed roadmap to prepare for meeting your organization's goals and changes ahead.

#### ePlus Configuration Center Services

Configuration Services streamline your deployment through pre-configured solutions that reduce complexity and simplify and speed up the implementation process.





## Prioritize Security

Implementing new technology facilitates new learning opportunities and maximizes teaching resources, but these dispersed ecosystems and remote data access can also introduce more security risks. For instance, if you plan to provide every student with a tablet, how do you ensure student safety and the safety of the school's data and systems when students use the device on a home network?

Comprehensive protection mechanisms and adherence to security best practices can reduce these risks.

### ePlus Advantage:

ePlus offers a range of **cybersecurity** solutions and services, including risk assessments, vulnerability management, and incident response, to ensure your institution's data remains secure during and after the transformation process.

## Ensure Scalability

As you, the decision-maker, prepare for today's emerging technology, it's crucial to do so with an eye on the future. Say you plan to equip an entire classroom with VR headsets for an immersive learning experience. Each device would stream high-definition visuals and audio simultaneously. This surge in demand could overwhelm the existing network, causing slowdowns or even outages for other users. Your role in managing this transition is pivotal.

A flexible and agile infrastructure will prepare your institution to better adapt to evolving needs and facilitate integrations with the technology of tomorrow.

### ePlus Advantage:

**ePlus Assessments** span cloud, infrastructure, security, and more to help you understand where your technology is today and what's needed to facilitate your planned changes. Use the actionable insights from these assessments to develop a clear roadmap for your transformation.

## Evaluate Financial and Staffing Resources

One of the greatest barriers to digital transformation is resource limitations. Before diving into your implementation, it's important to evaluate the cost of implementing and managing new technologies realistically. Determine whether your current team possesses the necessary skills to navigate the transformation or if you'll need to invest in additional talent or upskilling programs.

By understanding the financial cost and staffing required to implement a new tool successfully, you can avoid budget overruns, delays, and other roadblocks.

### ePlus Advantage:

#### Managed Services

Tap into ePlus technology professionals to manage and optimize your critical technologies, allowing your internal team to focus on innovation and elevating the learning experience.

#### Strategic Technology Resourcing

Connect with the high-quality technical resources you need, whether for short-term projects or long-term management.

#### Training Services

Access technical training courses designed to enhance in-house skillsets in cloud and security technologies, facilitating the successful adoption of new technology.

## Navigating the Digital Transformation with ePlus

Successful integration of emerging technologies, such as AI, VR, and personal devices, will continue to revolutionize how we educate students — but they must be integrated with security and scalability in mind.

ePlus is a strategic partner that guides educational institutions through this complex process, empowering them to create a more engaging and accessible blended learning environment.





**Learn more about how ePlus can help you leverage emerging technology to enhance the learning experience, improve student test scores, and protect your data, students and staff.**

[Connect with ePlus to get started today](#)