



## Theme 3: Technology

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Participants highlighted the need for digital tools and skill sets, the importance of social interaction and equity, and the need to adapt teaching and learning practices to a virtual context. Consistency of learning platforms, increased education and development, and continued innovation in the system are needed. Participants shared valuable feedback on the increased use of technology in the classroom. Improvements in this area should build upon successes, as this was a significant area of growth throughout the pandemic.

### Remote Learning

Participants highlighted that remote learning and other uses of technology are not a replacement for classroom learning, rather they are tools to supplement and improve it. *Manitoba's Remote Learning Framework (2020)* was viewed as an important tool in ensuring consistency across the province. Regardless of the improvements in remote learning, the importance of in-class learning cannot be underestimated. It was noted that younger students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 are best served through in-class learning with their peers and dedicated teaching staff. This speaks to the important roles schools play beyond the academic, including offering broader student services and a strong social support network.

It is important, nonetheless, that we continue to develop understanding of remote learning and other uses of technology, and utilize the evolving technological landscape to ensure students are prepared to face similar situations and leverage technology as they continue their Kindergarten to Grade 12 post-secondary studies.

Participants noted that there are advantages as well as common challenges regarding remote learning. These included:

1. Increasing flexibility and responsiveness of learning platforms.
2. Using online learning platforms to increase attendance when possible.
3. Ensuring clarity and effectiveness by creating a "common place" as a learning tool, a cloud-based drive or other innovative platforms.
4. Developing professional capacity for the use of technology across the education system.
5. Prioritizing technological literacy for students and staff.
6. Creating inclusive and engaging learning experiences by using technology and online platforms.