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Eurobarometer: Digital skills at school as reading, mathematics, and science

92% of EU citizens support teaching digital skills at all levels of education, as a lesson of equal importance as reading, maths, and science (78%). EU citizens count on schools and teachers to ensure next generations' mental health and digital wellbeing in the AI era.

Read on.

Recognising both benefits and challenges of technology in the AI era, EU citizens count on schools and teachers to ensure next generations' mental health and digital wellbeing, says the [Commission's Flash Eurobarometer on Future Needs in Digital Education survey](#).

EU citizens overall support the ban of smartphones in schools (69%), echoing the recent call by the European Parliament for a social media ban for under 16s, [following the example of Australia](#) (click on image to enlarge).



87%

A broad consensus in favour of
promoting digital technologies
specifically designed for
learning in schools



69%



of EU citizens support a ban
of smartphones in schools

At the same time, they overwhelmingly agree (92%) on teaching digital skills at school at all levels of education, with digital technologies specifically designed for school learning (87%) and as a lesson of equal importance as reading, maths, and science (78%).

Supporting learners requires supporting teachers

A strong majority (80%) agreed that digital literacy helps protect students against online misinformation and disinformation and a stronger majority (89%) that in order to teach students how to tell online fact from fiction, all teachers should be equipped with the necessary skills.

More than half (54%) respondents acknowledged AI bringing both benefits and challenges and called for its further monitoring. Such benefits include access to tailored learning

(87%), more innovative education and training (87%) and more accessible and inclusive education and training (84%) (click on image to enlarge),

Most respondents see benefits of digital technologies for education



Nine in ten (92%) agreed that students should be taught in school how to manage mental and physical health impact of digital technologies, including social media.

Nearly nine in ten also recognise the key role of teachers (88%) and parents and families (87%) on children's developing the skills needed for safe and responsible use of technology.

Fostering learners' digital wellbeing and mental health

Most EU citizens agree that...



88%

Teachers should play a key role in supporting children in developing the skills needed for interacting safely with technology



87%

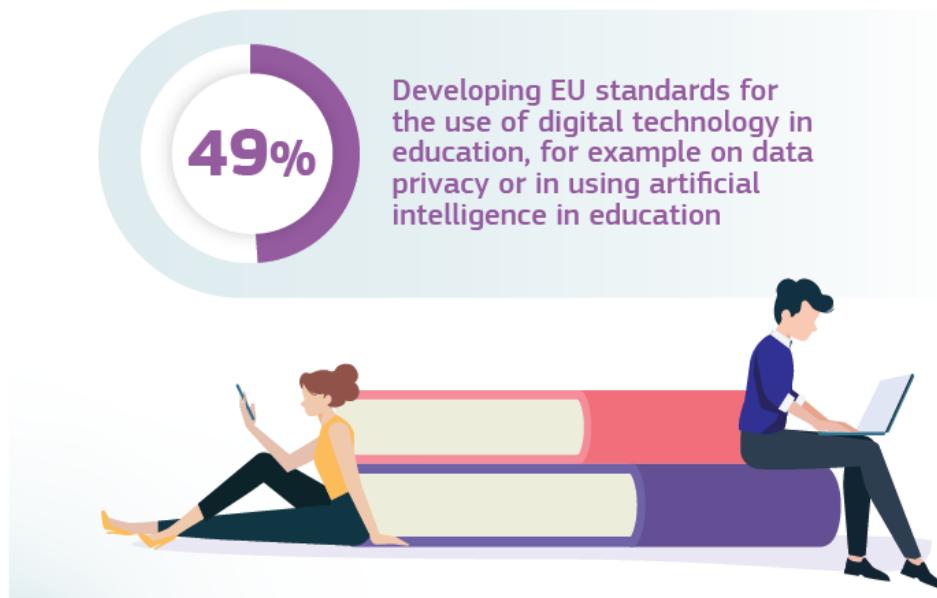
Parents and families have a crucial role in teaching their children how to use technology safely and responsibly



92%

Schools should teach young people how to manage the impact of digital technologies, such as social media, on their mental and physical health

Nearly half of the respondents (49%) said that the EU can best support successful digital education across EU Member States by setting standards for the use of digital technologies in education, for example on data protection or on how to use AI in education.



“Today, digital skills are essential for everyday life and future-proof jobs. This survey shows that Europeans understand this reality clearly and are calling for stronger action. We hear their concerns, and we are working to help every European – children and adults alike – develop the digital skills they need. Their insights will guide next year’s 2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills.” said [Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness.](#)

This Eurobarometer survey will help update the European

Commission's efforts to strengthen digital education in the EU, including in the upcoming Education package and 2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills, expected in 2026 as part of the [Union of Skills](#).

Other EU initiatives on digital education include the Digital Education Action Plan, the [Ethical Guidelines on the use of AI and data in teaching and learning](#) and the [Guidelines for teachers and educators on tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training](#).

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Image in the header by [Mohamed Hassan](#) from [Pixabay](#).

Images in the text - Available in the infographic of the [Survey](#).