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**Sent:** Wednesday, July 6, 2016 9:03 AM  
**To:** Haley, Nikki  
**Subject:** Top picks for back-to-school tech this fall

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## Top picks for back-to-school tech this fall

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An app that lets teachers turn classrooms into game shows and another that lets students read news articles at their own reading level are among the [edtech tools](#) likely to be popular in the classroom when school resumes this fall. Also, don't miss our report on the [top edtech tools trending at the 2016 ISTE conference](#) in Denver last week as well as [our other coverage from the event](#).

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**Teachers are striving to bring [virtual reality](#) to the classroom**, according to a new survey. Nearly 85 percent of teachers polled said virtual reality could improve learning outcomes, and almost 95 percent said they think students would be excited to use the edtech in school. Despite this, only 2 percent of teachers have actually used virtual reality in the classroom. In an interview with us, Ted Brodheim, vice president of Vertical Business at Samsung

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Electronics America, predicted that a year from now, virtual reality would be a larger part of the edtech conversation.

**The State Department is [creating massive open online courses](#)** to help colleges expand their study abroad programs. The agency has teamed up with Arizona State University to offer courses meant to help university faculty and administrators widen and diversify their study abroad programs, increase student participation, and broaden the geographical and institutional scope of the programs. The first MOOC modules will be available in November for free. They will be hosted by edX, which also offers free online courses for ASU students.

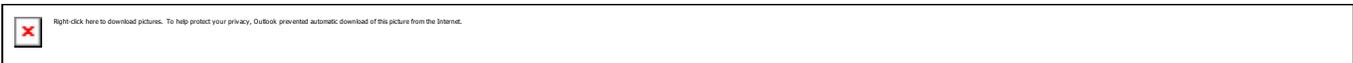
**The Data Quality Campaign encouraged** state officials to provide [transparent student data](#) to the public under the Every Student Succeeds Act. "ESSA really is a data bill," said Rachel Anderson, senior associate of policy and advocacy for the Data Quality Campaign, during a webinar. The DQC believes that students excel when the adults, parents and school administrators in their lives have the information necessary to make good decisions about their education. The organization also believes ESSA enables state officials to provide the community with the student data they need. The DQC wants state officials to "reset the conversation" and make their data systems more effective.

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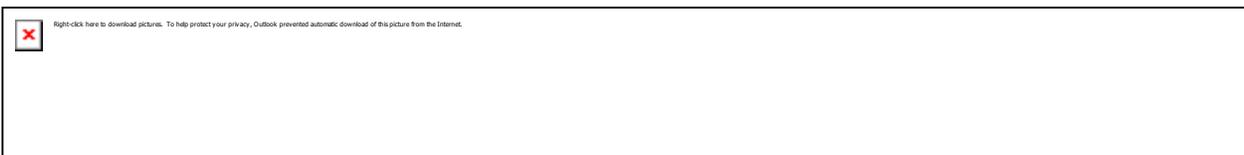
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*Here's our list of what you should read this week:*

- **Teachers get a lesson in technology from York College, York (Pennsylvania) Dispatch**
- **State debuts online program to help boost graduation rates for foster children, Hartford (Connecticut) Courant**
- **MOOCs guide for policymakers in developing countries, University World News**
- **Revere Local Schools students to receive Apple MacBook Air computers, Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal**
- **Duval Schools look to Legos to expand interest in science, spark imagination, The Florida Times-Union**



EdScoop features the latest news and conversations with top leaders driving technology and digital learning in K-12 and higher education, bringing together influential policy and decision makers at the federal, state & local education levels.

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