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To: Haley, Nikki
Subject: Girls outshine boys using tech, study finds

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Girls outshine boys using tech, study finds



Women may be underrepresented in STEM fields and jobs, but that doesn't mean girls aren't well-versed in technology and engineering from a young age. The National Assessment of Educational Progress released the first Nation's Report Card for technology and engineering literacy, and found that eighth-grade girls outperform boys when it comes to using computers and other digital tools to solve problems.

"Girls had higher average scores overall and in one content area and two practices we assessed," said Peggy G. Carr, acting commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics. [Read more about the findings here.](#)

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Meet two school technology leaders who are grappling with the changing education IT landscape: There is [John Alawneh](#), chief information officer for Katy Independent School District in Texas, and [Jon Amelio](#), chief technology officer for Allegheny Intermediate Unit in Pennsylvania. Both talk about their tech priorities, how to keep children's data safe, some of the recent challenges they face and how to do more with less of a budget.

The House passed a bill this week that authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to provide training and resources [to combat cyberattacks](#) and address cybersecurity issues at nonprofit entities, including colleges.

The legislation, spearheaded by Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-Texas), passed with an overwhelming majority. Dubbed the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act, the bill also requires DHS to reach out to historically black colleges and institutions that serve minorities.

ICYMI: Check out a new commentary from Rocketship Education co-founder and CEO Preston Smith on why [blended learning can lead](#) to positive results. Smith took issue specifically with a report released by the National Education Policy Center that highlighted low performance at virtual and blended schools, which incorporates some technology component into the curriculum. Smith argues that the metrics used by the NEPC to compare charter schools like Rocketship to a statewide average that includes elementary, middle and high schools don't add up.

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

- **Hyattsville students get 'Teched Out' with more technology in classroom, Hyattsville Life & Times**
- **Schools to share \$45M for technology, Democrat & Chronicle**
- **MU College of Education gets \$12 million grant to study classroom technology, Columbia Daily Tribune**
- **Gov. McAuliffe signs bill adding computer science to SOL tests, NBC 29 News**
- **Israel is at the forefront of education technology, The Times of Israel**



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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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