

Empowering student agency and teacher transformation through scalable technology in Australia



School at a glance

Located in a metropolitan suburb of South Australia, Underdale High School is a culturally diverse public school for students in Years 7–12, with an ICSEA score of 998 (46th percentile), a student body of 628 (42% of whom speak a language other than English), and 53 teaching staff.

Challenge

South Australia is rolling out a Digital Strategy (2023–26) to strengthen digital foundations, build capability, and accelerate student growth. To inform this, there is a need for evidence on how EdTech can enhance teaching and learning in diverse, future-focused schools like Underdale.

Solution

Project digital transformation of education launched its first South Australia pilot at Underdale High School. Through Chromebooks and Chromebooks and Google Workspace for Education (“GWfE”), the pilot aimed to support inclusive, digitally enabled teaching practices and generate actionable insights to help advance the state’s digital education agenda.

GWfE was integrated into everyday classroom activities, with tools such as Google Slides, Forms, and YouTube — alongside selected third-party applications — actively used in lesson planning, delivery, and student assignments.

Using a participatory research approach, teachers, students, and leaders were actively engaged in structured training sessions, classroom practice, and reflection workshops. The pilot demonstrated that technology not only improved collaboration but also boosted classroom engagement, increased teacher confidence in digital instruction, and reduced common technical barriers. Importantly, adoption of Google Classroom and Chromebooks expanded significantly, laying the groundwork for scaling future digital learning initiatives.



My class collaborated well while using Chromebooks and displayed better involvement on the tasks.

Teacher
Underdale High School



Key benefits

Teachers rated Chromebooks higher than tablets across all areas for teaching purpose suitability. The biggest advantages were in **lesson planning, teacher feedback, and homework completion**, showing Chromebooks' stronger impact on teaching efficiency and student outcomes. **Collaboration and communication levels** in the classroom also increased amongst students, observed by 62% of teachers.



Students use GWfE to develop research and problem solving skills

Google Workspace for Education enabled students to take greater ownership of their learning. Almost **70% of teachers** observed that students used Google tools find information, **70%** also believed it allow students to be **more creative and imaginative** in their work.



Foster collaboration and communication

Teachers noticed that students became more collaborative and communicative in class, leading to greater engagement and participation during lessons. In fact, **69% of teachers** agreed that students collaborate more with their classmates, while **62% observed that students communicate more actively with peers**.



Time-saving benefits for teachers and students

Teachers reported saving significant time, while also noticing that students became more efficient in completing assignments. On average, their weekly workload decreased from 55 hours to 44 hours, with **reductions in teaching and student support (23h → 18h), administrative tasks (18h → 15h), and lesson design (15h → 10h)**.



Chromebooks were well suited for learning

Teachers rated Chromebooks higher than tablets across all areas, **scoring 4.1–4.5 out of 5** compared to 3.3–4.1 out of 5 for tablets. They were especially valued for **providing student feedback and supporting lesson planning**.



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