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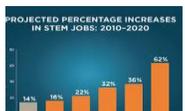
### Survey of Top Edtech Priorities

More than 90% of school district leaders across the country say their top priority for education technology is to personalize learning for students, according to a [survey](#) from the Center for Digital Education. The survey also reveals that about 75% of districts offer blended-learning options and more educators are expressing concern about student data and privacy issues.



### There's More to Math than Drills

Drilling is one small part of a broader learning approach. Students also need to experiment, explore, collaborate, theorize, and reflect. [Continue the conversation](#) with colleagues.



### STEM Worker Shortage at a Crisis Level?

A Missouri-based technology and engineering company survey indicates about 40% of American believe the STEM worker shortage is at a crisis level. The survey results also report that current students are more likely to pursue a STEM field than their parents. [Read more.](#)

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

### Illinois Science Teacher Association and Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference - October 19-20

Two state organizations have come together to provide an exceptional conference for science, math and STEM educators. Registration includes meals, raffles, a reception on Friday and more. [Register here.](#)

### Pumpkin Race Competition – October 27

Enjoy the fun with decorating, costumes, and races. Proceeds benefit the Turning Pointe Autism Foundation. Get more information [here.](#)

### NGSS Science and Engineering Practices Workshops – November 5 and 19 – Hinsdale South High School

These workshops are geared toward teachers of grade levels 6-12. Each one will focus on two different science and engineering practices. [November 5 targets SEP's 2 and 3](#) and [November 19 targets SEP's 6 and 7.](#)

### Growing STEM: Creating and Nurturing STEM Learners – November 14 – Glenbard East High School

Everyone with a STEM interest is invited to hear Dr. Jay Thomas, who will discuss his research on creativity and motivation and the connection with STEM learning and practice. And, Leslie Kressin will share her experiences as a STEM student and professional. Register by using this email address: [mbiniewicz@dupageroe.org](mailto:mbiniewicz@dupageroe.org).

### SMART Competition

Engage your high school students in creating their sustainable energy solution using professionally available software and access to international experts as mentors and sponsors. [Registration](#) runs October through February.

### NISE Conference - November 12

Northern Illinois Science Educators will host its fifth annual conference, *SEP by SEP*. Registration is \$165 for the full day. Attendees may earn up to 5 PDH's. Updates on the program are ongoing. [Learn more.](#)

## Resources

### Techshopz in a Box

Check out these open source workshop plans, documents, and procedures designed to change the way middle school girls think about technology. <https://www.techgirlz.org/techshopz-in-a-box/>

### NEA Foundation Grants

Grants to improve student achievement in U.S. public schools and public higher education institutions, with preference is given to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) or global learning projects. [Applications](#) are due Feb. 1, June 1, and Oct. 15.

### IDNR Grants

The Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant (applications due January 31, 2019) and the Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant (applications due November 30, 2018) offer grants to help you bring learning to life by supporting field trips and the development of wildlife habitat. For details and application forms, [click here.](#)