

Slack is No Longer Just for The Office: Slack in Education

There is a person, or two, in most work environments who have it all together, all the time—they know what's on everyone's agenda, where to find files immediately, and how the bosses like their coffee. Most importantly, though, they're responsive and available, quick to answer the phone or respond to an email to collaborate in real time. If you digitize all the qualities of that star employee and pour them into an always-on business messaging platform that's accessible across multiple devices, you'd have [Slack](#).

There's more to this story, though. As you know, at Troxell, we aim to bring you the most updated views on technologies that affect your classrooms (like the time we told you [how to make the most out of your digital field trips](#)). Slack is one of those technologies, as it's no longer just a business tool. **Keep your eyes open for Slack in education, as professors and teachers are using it to improve the classroom experience—here's how.**

The Rise of Slack and Real-Time Messaging

Real-time messaging platform Slack has seen tremendous growth since it launched in 2013. [Today, it has 2.7 million daily active users with 800,000 paying for the service, figures three and a half times higher](#) than they were this time last year. What's generating all the buzz? Slack is designed to simplify office communication and bolster collaboration via real-time messaging—and it's working, according to a recent [BetterCloud Monitor study that found 95 percent of Slack users](#) say the real-time messaging platform has improved communication. That same study reported that 56 percent of respondents felt real-time messaging platforms would eventually replace office email.

Applications for Slack in Education

While the numbers show Slack is clearly a useful tool in the workplace, offices aren't the only organizations using it. Slack in education is starting to trend, too. Here are some ways professors and teachers are using the tool to improve the classroom experience:

- Some professors are using Slack as a collaboration tool to complement their curriculum, encouraging students to interact with content and peers via Slack rather than Blackboard or other commonly used platforms with limited functionality.
- Especially in this age of Slack's flexible channels can facilitate active discussions that some massive open online courses (MOOCs) just can't seem to master. Students of various ages and disciplines all interested in a common topic can come together instantly on Slack channels to review materials and discuss, resembling an online seminar. This method was so effective in trials that [the team at +Acumen plans to use Slack for future MOOCs going forward](#).
- Slack integrates an impressive 80 other tools, including a calendar function, Google Docs, YouTube, and Dropbox. [Connecting these apps to Slack for educational use is relatively simple](#). In addition, the platform is accessible from either Android or iOS devices. As a result, it's convenient for both students and teachers to discuss and upload content.
- Slack isn't just for students. Teachers can join Slack on a professional level to connect with other educators and have theme-based discussions based on grade and subject matter. ([Consider SlackEDU, which houses Team #PhysED for gym teachers or Team #middleschool for those who teach adolescents](#).)

At the end of the day, classrooms and curriculums are relying more than ever on technology, and educators are turning to real-time messaging platform Slack to more efficiently connect with their students and their peers.