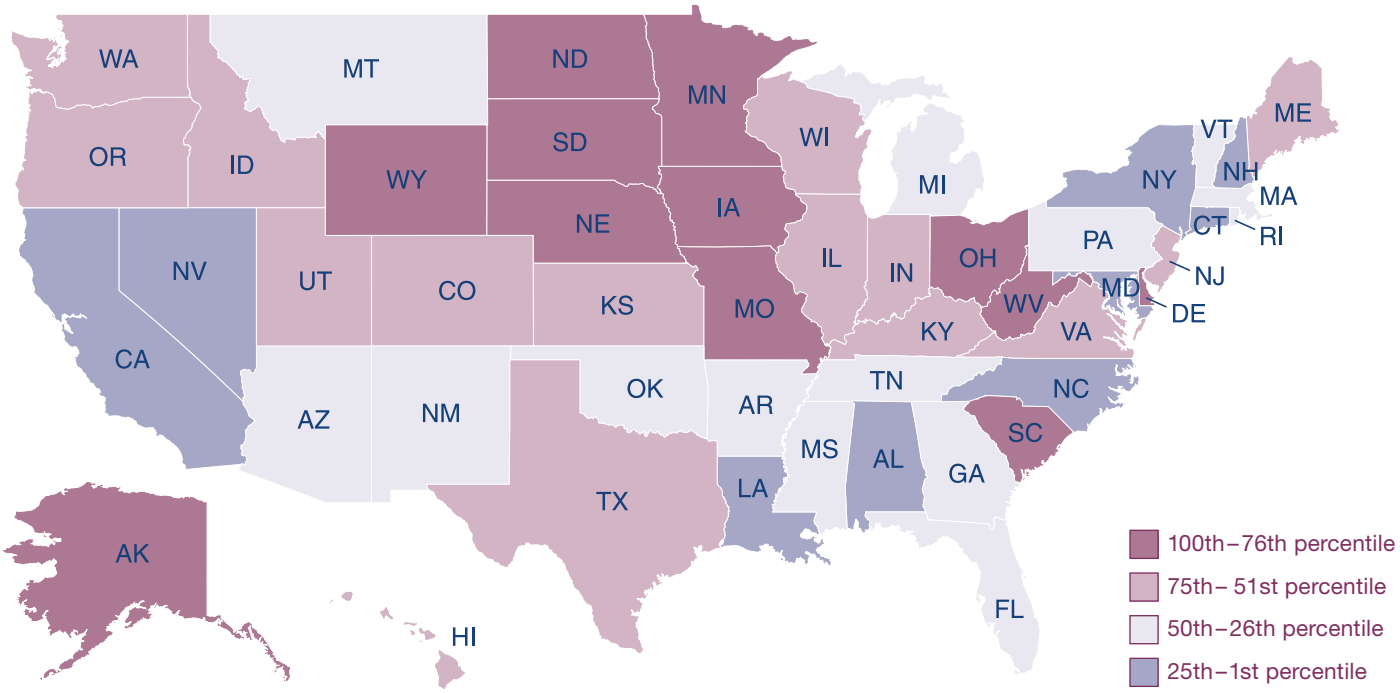
TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

A weighted measure of five factors measuring computer and Internet use in schools.[23]

Why Is This Important? There is increasing evidence that when used right, computers and the Internet boost educational outcomes.[24] Not surprisingly, the use of information technology in America's schools is growing. The percentage of schools with at least one Internet connection has increased rapidly, from 78 percent in 1997, to 94 percent in 2000, while the percentage of classrooms with Internet access has gone from 27 percent in 1997, to 82 percent in 2000.[25]

"The percentage of classrooms with Internet access has gone from 27 percent in 1997, to 82 percent in 2000."

The Rankings: A number of states that are furthest ahead in integrating information technology into schools are the less populated and more geographically dispersed states, suggesting that a motivating factor is the desire to establish better connections to information and resources in other parts of the nation and the world. Political leaders in these and other states may recognize that the IT revolution is an important key to their future prosperity and that it is essential to properly train the next generation of workers. Surprisingly, a number of states with strong technology economies score notably low on this measure, including Connecticut, Maryland, New Hampshire, and California, which ranks last.

The top five		Total score
1	Nebraska	3.82
2	South Dakota	3.64
3	Delaware	3.58
4	Ohio	3.47
5	Iowa	3.37
	U.S. average	**2.00**

Source: Education Week, 2000 data.