

## Oversold and Underused

Larry CUBAN

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# OVERSOLD & UNDERUSED

COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM



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**Larry CUBAN : Oversold and Underused** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oversold and Underused:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Well written and worth reading By Abbie Brown A very well written and thoughtful examination of the 'challenges' faced by k-12 educators dealing with the general public's view that getting computers into the schools will improve learning. The book supports a number of ideas I already subscribe to (making me a decidedly biased reviewer) -- essentially, putting computers in classrooms is not enough (Alan Kay's observation that there's no music in a piano is one of my favorite succinct statements on this subject). Cuban reveals

himself to be somewhat unsophisticated with computing tools/techniques, but I'm not sure this is a bad thing - he's an educator, not a 'tech-geek' and the educator's point of view on the subject of computers in the classroom has not been heard well enough in the past few years.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gives you something to think aboutBy BookLover21I purchased this book while I was working on a semester long project for my master's degree. I personally feel that computers are not used, in my local schools, enough; especially to help children who have disabilities that would benefit from using a computer. I wanted to write on this topic, however later change my mind. I had already read most of this book and Mr. Cuban does give people plenty to think about. If you have children in the public education system you will know exactly what I mean. I do appreciate his insight very much.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Still a wonderful, clear and valid view of the use of ...By Juan De La MoraStill a wonderful, clear and valid view of the use of IT in schools. Bringing computers to schools is worthless if you do not change the processes lying within the classroom.

Impelled by a demand for increasing American strength in the new global economy, many educators, public officials, business leaders, and parents argue that school computers and Internet access will improve academic learning and prepare students for an information-based workplace. But just how valid is this argument? In *Oversold and Underused*, one of the most respected voices in American education argues that when teachers are not given a say in how the technology might reshape schools, computers are merely souped-up typewriters and classrooms continue to run much as they did a generation ago. In his studies of early childhood, high school, and university classrooms in Silicon Valley, Larry Cuban found that students and teachers use the new technologies far less in the classroom than they do at home, and that teachers who use computers for instruction do so infrequently and unimaginatively. Cuban points out that historical and organizational economic contexts influence how teachers use technical innovations. Computers can be useful when teachers sufficiently understand the technology themselves, believe it will enhance learning, and have the power to shape their own curricula. But these conditions can't be met without a broader and deeper commitment to public education beyond preparing workers. More attention, Cuban says, needs to be paid to the civic and social goals of schooling, goals that make the question of how many computers are in classrooms trivial.