

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

Essential Skills Today's Students Need for Jobs in Tomorrow's Age of Automation

Creative problem solving is the process of redefining problems and opportunities, coming up with new, innovative responses and solutions, and then taking action.

Global research shows that tomorrow's jobs will demand creative problem solving skills. We asked 1600 higher and secondary educators, and 400 policymakers and influencers around the world to tell us about how students are being prepared to be creative problem solvers. Here is what we found...

Educators and policymakers worldwide agree:

Creative problem solving is critical to future career success in an age of automation



And yet these skills are NOT being nurtured in schools today

69% **61%**

Educators and policymakers agree that there is **not enough emphasis on creative problem solving** in today's curricula.

In fact, the skills identified globally as most important to creative problem solving are currently playing a minimal role in today's curricula.

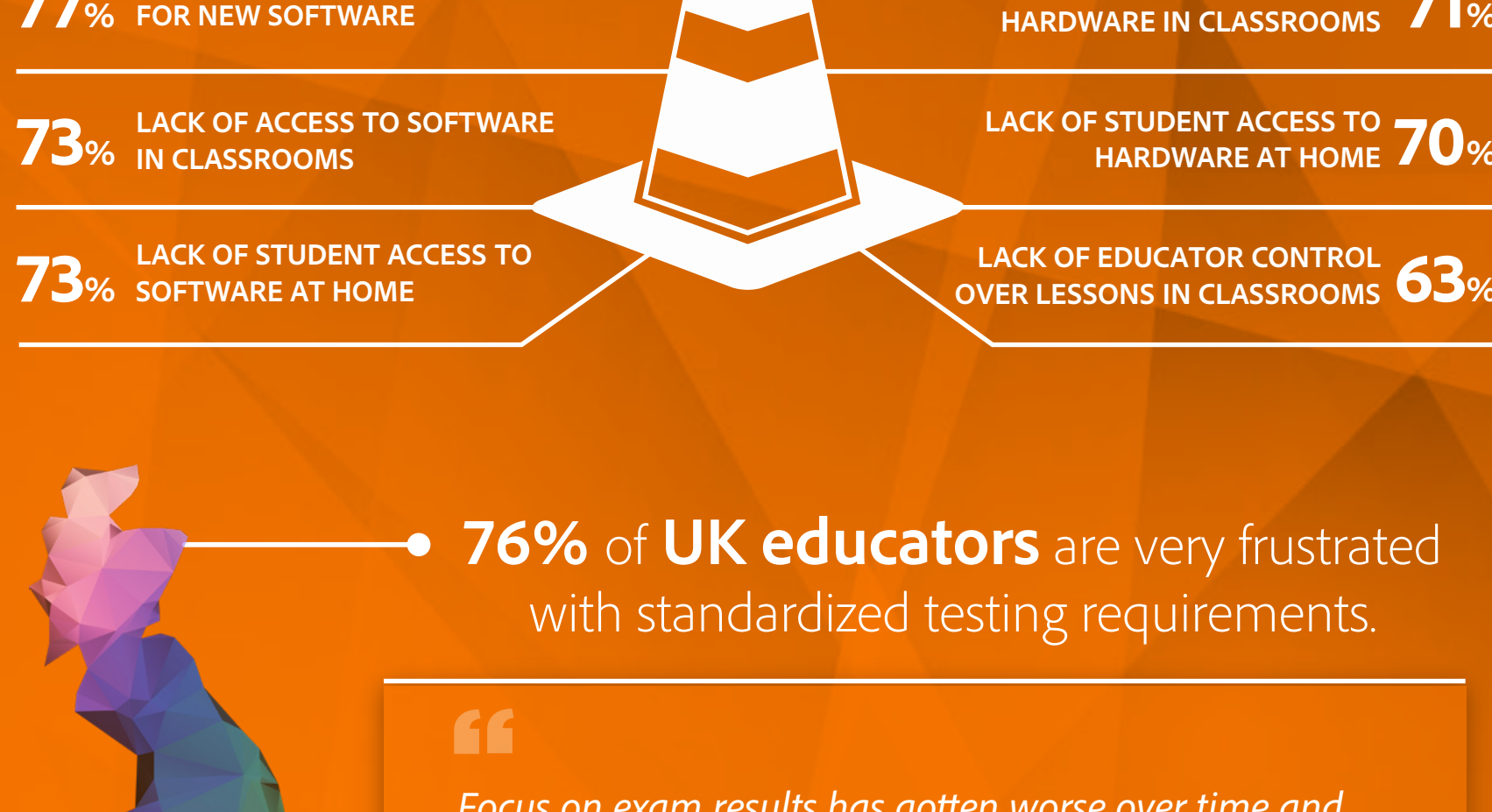


In schools today there are tasks, but no value is placed on creative solutions – only on the fact that the tasks are executed correctly. Creative problem solving and more independent work would have to be integrated into the curriculum for all subjects at an early stage.

German Policymaker



There are many barriers — at the global level — to teaching creative problem solving in schools today



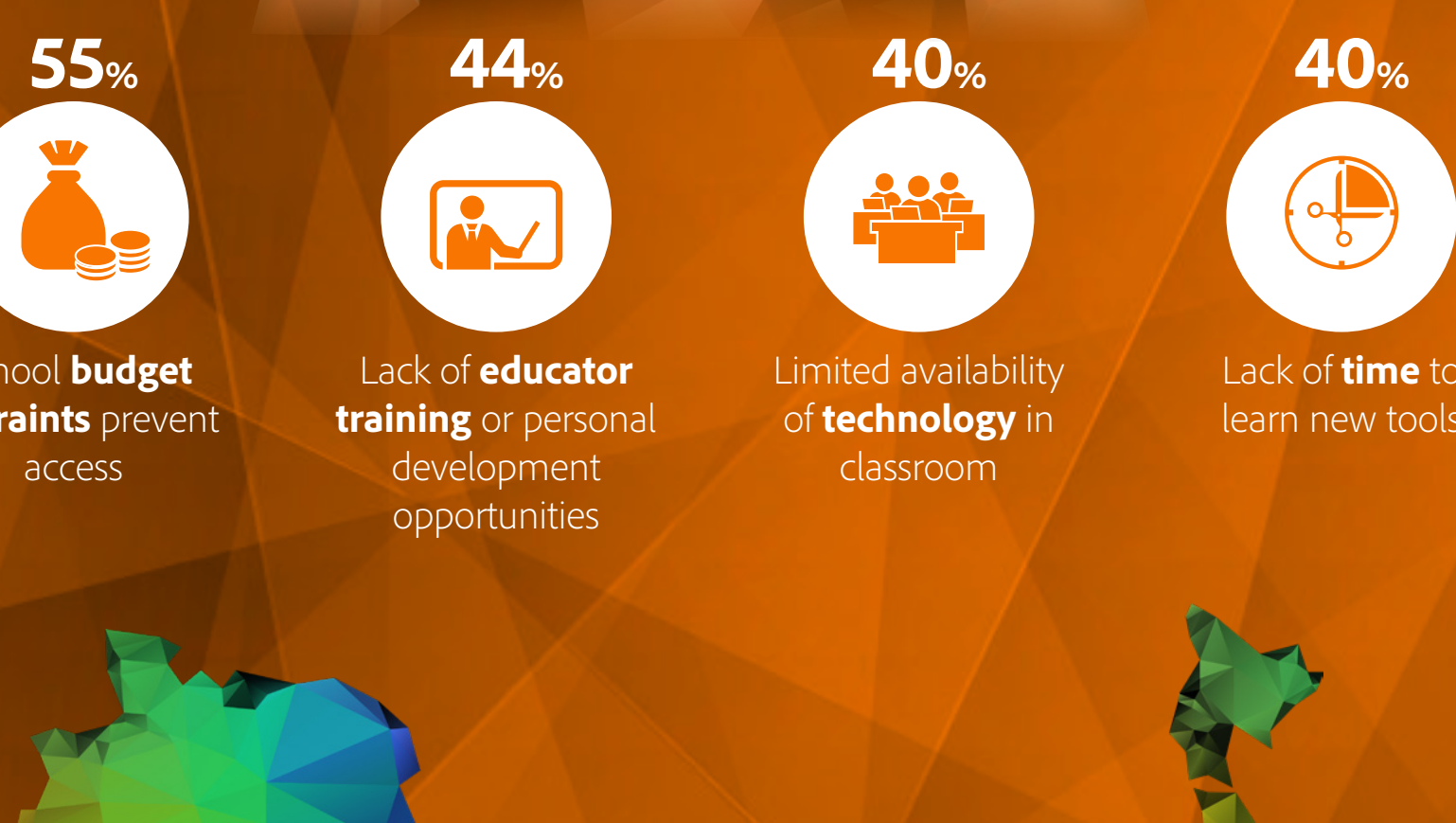
76% of **UK educators** are very frustrated with standardized testing requirements.

Focus on exam results has gotten worse over time and with budget cuts, this means there isn't enough time and there aren't enough resources available to do this (creative problem solving).

UK Educator, Secondary



More than half of educators don't have access to the tools and training they need to nurture creative problem solving skills. School budget restraints and a lack of time, technology and training keep teachers from getting the knowledge they need.



85% of **German educators** cited the need for more budget to increase emphasis on creative problem solving.

The budget for the school is not enough, we have the worst, outdated technology [in school] and no technology at home for the students.

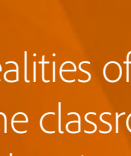
German Educator, Secondary



40% of **Japanese educators** said they did not have ANY technology tools in their classroom.

It is impossible for high schools to use electronic whiteboards or videos using electronic equipment in the classroom. Since color copying is prohibited, visual teaching materials are always black and white.

Japan Educator, Secondary



Today's policies aren't helping either



80% of **US educators** believe that current policies hurt their abilities to nurture creative problem solving.

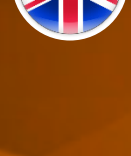
Teachers have precious little time to understand new policies and implement them effectively. We need to be given dedicated (paid) time to undertake training, not just asked to get on with it on top of already ridiculous workloads.

US Educator, Secondary

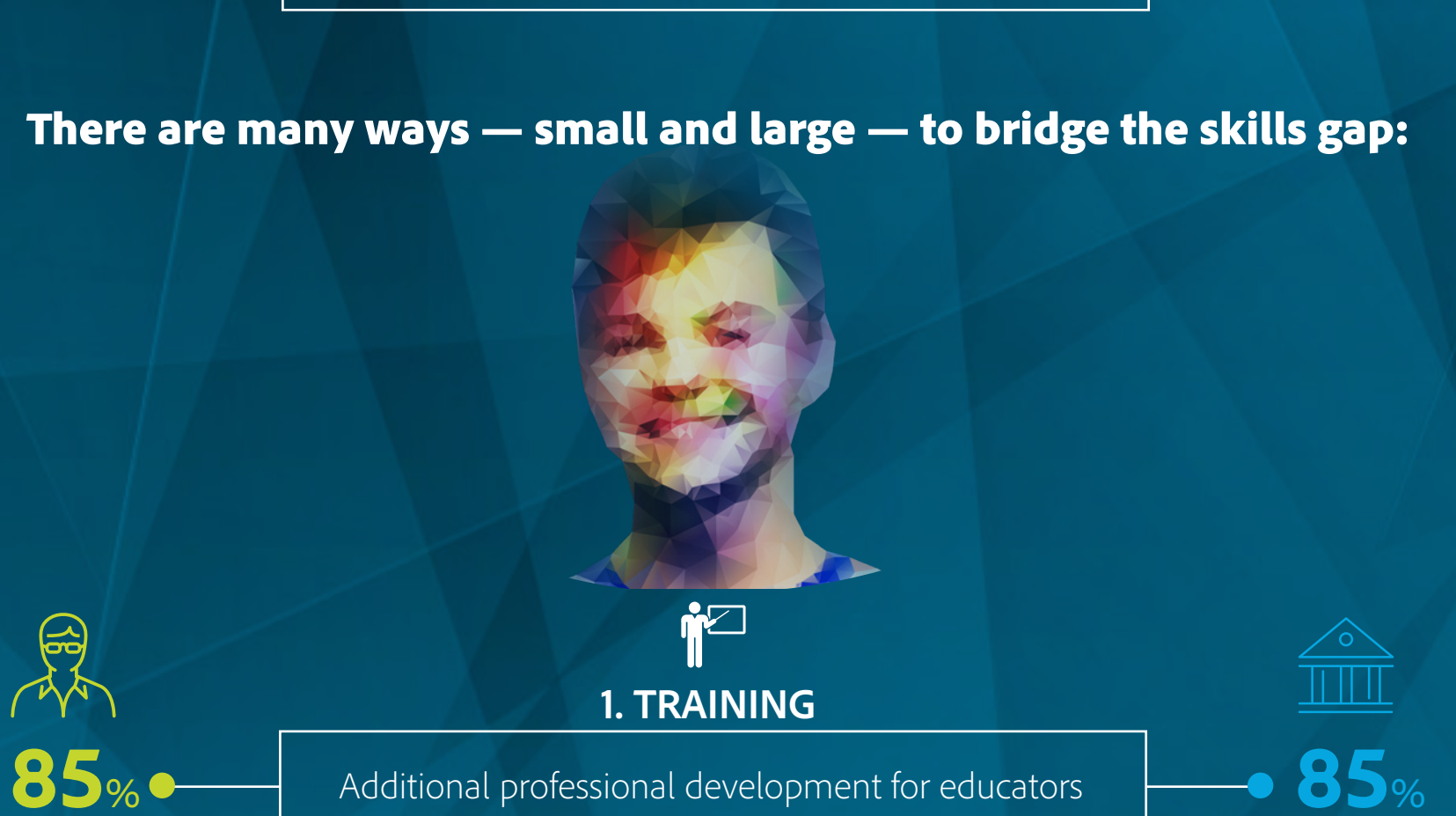


The policies are too restrictive in what they ask teachers to teach - it is harder for us to build well-rounded students.

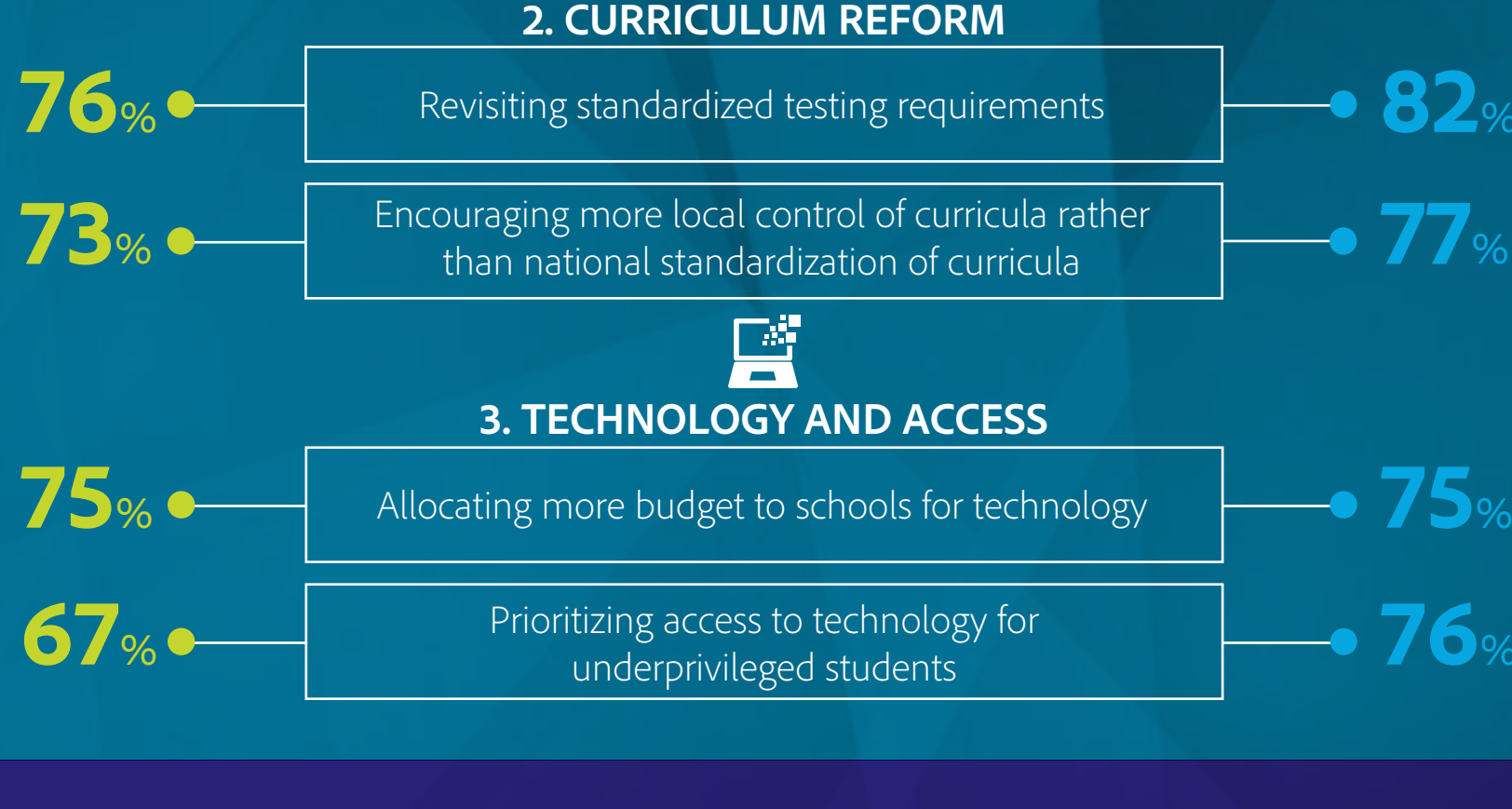
UK Educator, Secondary



Educators and policymakers believe it will take a variety of solutions to better nurture creative problem solving



There are many ways — small and large — to bridge the skills gap:



Technology alone is not the answer, but it plays a key role

Today's students are facing a sea change like no other, and Adobe is working with educators and students to help them develop these essential skills for entering tomorrow's workforce.

To learn more about:

- Why creative problem solving skills are so important to jobs of the future
- How Adobe is supporting educators, inspiring students and making tools more accessible
- And to hear directly from educators successfully using technology to teach creative problem solving skills in their classrooms

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