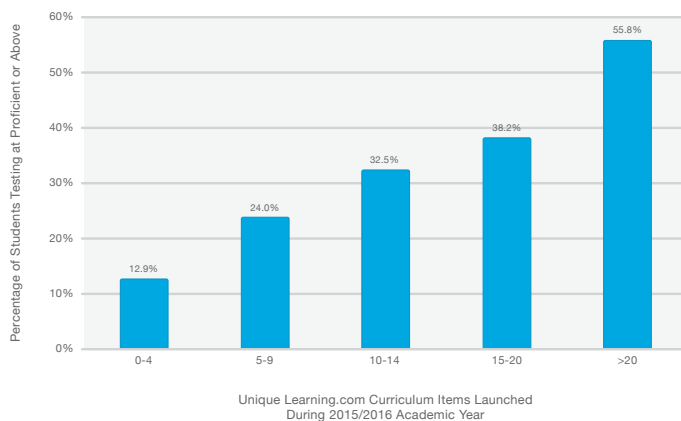


Digital Literacy Skills is a Key Indicator for Student Academic Success on Online Assessments

The terms 21st century skills and digital literacy typically refer to a broad set of knowledge, skills, work habits, and character traits that are believed—by educators, school reformers, college professors, employers, and others—to be critically important to success and effectiveness in today’s world, particularly in collegiate programs and contemporary careers and workplaces. Although definitions may vary, generally, skills typically include areas such as technology operations, information and media literacy, digital citizenship, critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, creativity and innovation, and computational thinking.

Across the country, states have been migrating to online delivery of their end-of-year summative assessments such as PARCC, Smarter Balanced, ACT Aspire, and others. With this new assessment modality, concerns have been raised about the impact of a student’s digital literacy skills on his or her ability to demonstrate their academic proficiency on the online assessment (see Gallup Survey, 2015).

AzMERIT Proficiency Percentage Correlated with Learning.com Curriculum Engagement
Spring 2016 AzMERIT ELA
5th Grade Students - Title I Eligible Schools



Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) has been a Learning.com customer for 12 years. In the 2015-16 school year, at the request of Mary Knight, Director of Technology, Learning.com partnered with FUSD to validate the correlation of students’ digital literacy skills with Arizona’s Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching (AZMERIT).

The study group consisted of 1,667 students, 902 third and 765 fifth grade, from ten schools. Seven schools were Title I eligible during the period of study, thus allowing for socio-economic comparisons.

Only students who were administered the AzMERIT assessment in the spring of 2016, and who had the opportunity to use EasyTech during the 2015-16 school year, were included.

Key Findings

A strong relationship exists between usage of EasyTech from Learning.com and proficiency achievement on the AzMERIT. Consistent users of EasyTech had proficiency achievement levels that were 4.3 TIMES that of non-/low users.

About Learning.com

Learning.com is a national leader in providing digital literacy solutions that help prepare students for online assessments, school, college and their future careers. The company offers a complete digital literacy curriculum for grades K-8 that engages students as they develop critical skills such as keyboarding, business applications, online safety, computational thinking and coding. Founded in 1999, Learning.com currently partners with one in six U.S. school districts and serves more than 4 million students each year. The company has earned more than 30 industry awards, including ISTE 2017 Best of Show, 2017 Award of Excellence from “Tech & Learning Magazine” and “The Oregonian’s Top Workplace” for 2017 and 2016.