

EASYTECH SUCCESS STORY

As District Priorities Evolve, Digital Literacy Remains Key

Cincinnati Public Schools

CINCINNATI, OHIO

34k students

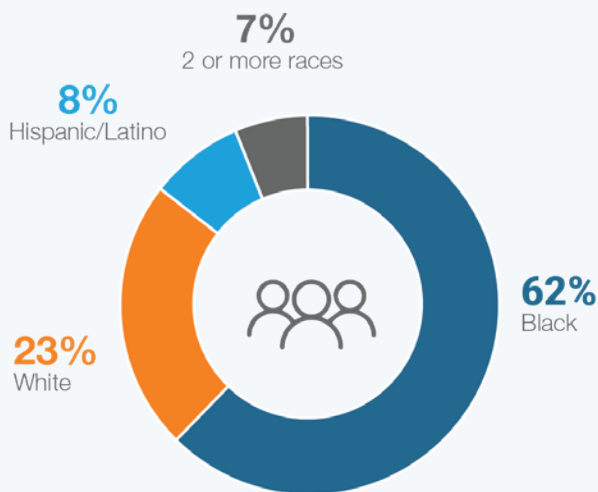
47 elem schools

18 high schools

85% f&r lunch

BACKGROUND

Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS), which serves students from a broad range of socioeconomic backgrounds, started using Learning.com's programs in 2007. Over the years, as the district's strategic priorities evolved and technology became ubiquitous in classrooms, Learning.com remained a beloved component of the curriculum.



The first teacher in the district to use Learning.com's EasyTech curriculum was Kilgour Elementary School Technology Coordinator Brenda McGee.

"I was seeking a program that would assist teachers who were not ready for technology and various software. We needed something that would be user friendly that would help us integrate technology into

our curriculum," McGee says. **"I suggested Learning.com because it met all the needs and was very simple to use."**

When state and national assessments went digital, CPS redoubled its commitment to Learning.com's programs, knowing that students perform better on online tests if they can type fluently and feel at ease with technology. Ohio's Third Grade Guarantee, which requires all students pass reading proficiency tests by grade 3, heightened the importance of typing in primary grades — students need to be able to "think and type at the same time."

"If you're hunting and pecking at the keyboard, you're not going to make it," says McGee.

LONG-TERM SOLUTION

When education dramatically changed in 2020 and campuses closed due to COVID-19, Learning.com was a lifesaver for teachers and students who had to shift to online learning. Through a partnership with Cincinnati Bell, CPS swiftly distributed laptops to all third through 12th graders, and iPads to pre-K to 2nd graders coupled with free internet access.

CPS students accessed Learning.com's EasyTech nearly 160,000 times from March 2020-February 2021. EasyTech allowed teachers to introduce

ABOUT LEARNING.COM

Learning.com's digital literacy curriculum enables schools to develop students' technology skills throughout core instruction.

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technology in lessons about English language arts, social studies, science — almost any subject. With the district's increased emphasis on improving core math and English language arts test scores, the need to incorporate digital skills into the day-to-day curriculum has become paramount.

"EasyTech is a one stop shop," says McGee. "I can't see how a teacher would not want to use EasyTech hand-in-hand with their curriculum."

David Church, elementary technology teacher at Pleasant Ridge Montessori School, creates technology lessons that cross into other disciplines and lean into student interests. For example, when he introduced PowerPoints through EasyTech, he had students create presentations about their interpretation of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Church points out that many of Learning.com's lesson plans do not require a computer at all, so colleagues who may be intimidated by technology can teach digital literacy skills even without getting on the computer. Meanwhile, Church focuses on ensuring that all of his students have a wide range of digital literacy skills, from how to use Boolean operators in a spreadsheet, to how to identify reliable sources in online research.

"I'm preparing them for high school because once they get there, they can't succeed without technology," he says. "It's everywhere."

“ Learning.com is an amazing platform. Even if you've never taught technology in any way, shape or form, there are so many lesson plans available and so many options, that you'll find a great place to start — whether it's on computer or off.

— David Church, technology teacher,
Cincinnati Public Schools



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