

SUCCESS STORY

Renewing a Focus on Digital Skills for Future-Ready Students

ARLINGTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

ARLINGTON, TEXAS

PK-12

56k students

53 elem schools

10 jr. high schools

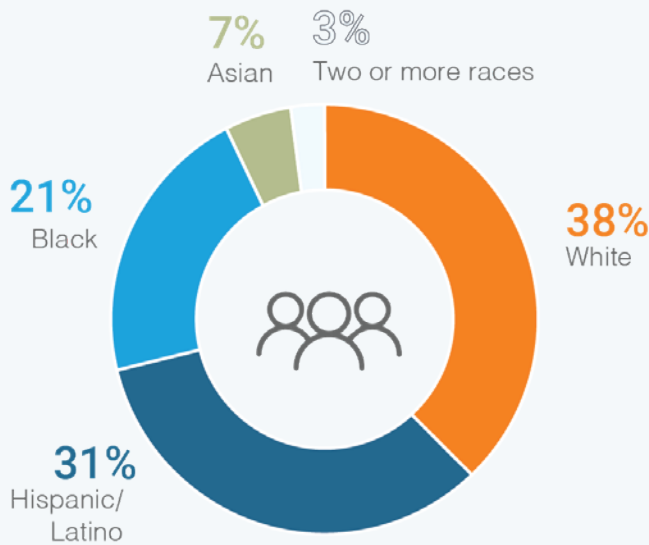
13 high schools

23% F&RL

30% ELL

Arlington Independent School District is a large district situated between Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas, serving more than 56,000 students who come from more than 90 countries and speak 68 different languages at home.

Driven by the shift to online STAAR testing – which would require keyboarding fluency in students as early as third grade – plus the increased focus on technology skills for college and career success, the district recently decided to double down on its efforts to implement Learning.com’s EasyTech.



“ **Learning.com’s EasyTech is more than just a keyboarding program, it’s a comprehensive digital literacy curriculum.** ”

– Steve Simpson, Director,
Technology Integration and Innovation Team

The district adopted Learning.com’s EasyTech over a decade ago. But, at the time, students had limited daily access to technology, and elementary schools did not have a dedicated technology class. As a result, program usage was low in the early years.

RENEWING FOCUS

Arlington ISD’s Technology Integration and Innovation Team (TI²) partnered with the Office of School Leadership to ensure all students in grades 3 through 6 were mastering keyboarding and digital literacy skills for success, with a renewed focus on utilizing Learning.com’s offering.

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“We want students mastering the TA-TEKs digital literacy skills, but also want to empower them with the keyboarding skills to demonstrate their understanding of content on tests, without being slowed down by hunting down the right key,” says Levianna Mirabelli, technology integration specialist.

District leaders and the Learning.com team worked to create an “ambassador” program, where one teacher on each campus would serve as the go-to expert for the resource, attending in-person training sessions on behalf of their campus, offering on-site coaching to their peers, and monitoring student progress at their campus.

The district also pushed out a customized asynchronous learning pathway in EasyTech to every student, which teachers could customize if they chose to. Teachers simply needed to give students an opportunity to log onto EasyTech two or three times a week, for 10 to 15 minutes at a time in order for technology application skills to be completed.

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Schools and teachers in Arlington ISD find their own ways to fit Learning.com into their weeks – some start the program as they arrive in class each morning, others use it as part of a station rotation or during intervention and extension time. In just the first 7 months of the 2022-23 school year, students launched EasyTech more than 1 million times, with keyboarding, digital citizenship and computer fundamental lessons leading the way as most accessed topics.

At C.B. Berry Elementary, 100% of students are actively using EasyTech. Jena Shankle, a 5th grade ESL teacher and a Learning.com ambassador, says her colleagues appreciate the district’s bulk-assigned curriculum, while students enjoy the game-based, self-paced approach to learning.

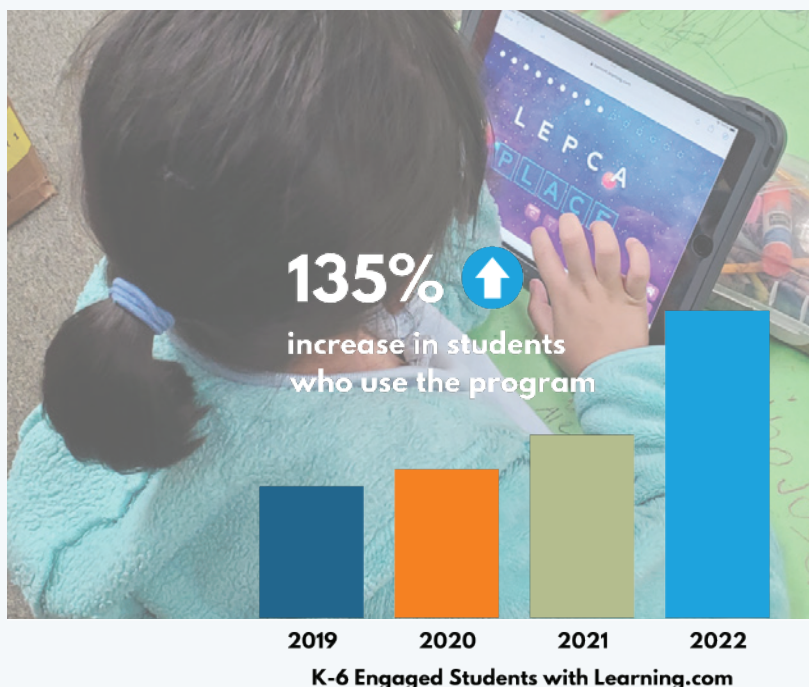
“It’s a lot less scary for teachers, and not just one more thing they were supposed to carve out time to do,”

Shankle says. “The kids are excited to do it, but I like how interactive it is. They’re not just sitting there watching videos – they’re clicking, dragging and matching.”

Importantly, Learning.com provides the TI² team with robust data they can use to inform conversations with district leaders about how well students are prepared for the technology requirements of online testing and future-ready digital literacy skills, as well as to celebrate the campuses that are excelling.

Already, the district is planning ways to keep the momentum going and encourage even greater usage of the curriculum in the years ahead.

“We meet weekly to generate ideas of how to make things better,” says Mirabelli. “Our partnership with Learning.com is a huge part of our success.”



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– Levianna Mirabelli,
Technology Integration Specialist

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