

## SUCCESS STORY

# A Big District Makes a Big Difference in Students' Digital Skills

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOUSTON, TEXAS

K-12

189k students

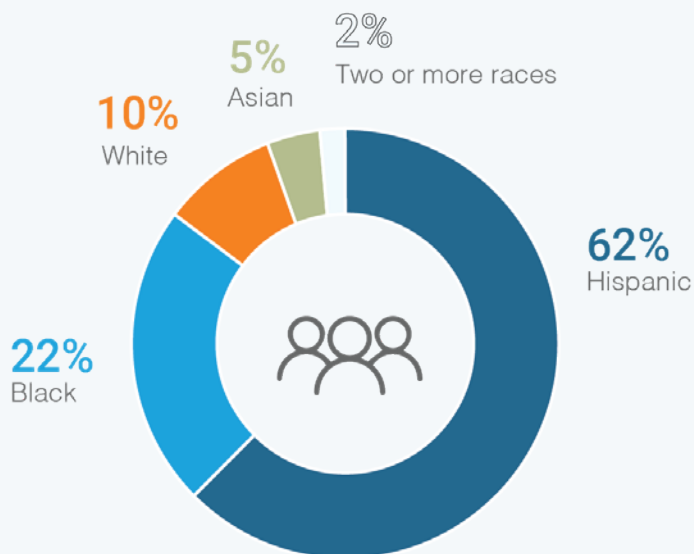
159 elem schools

39 middle schools

13 high schools

79% F&RL

Houston Independent School District serves over 189,000 K-12 students, making it the 8th largest district in the U.S. and the largest in Texas. Although the district has offered Learning.com's EasyTech digital literacy curriculum for more than a decade, administrators decided to raise awareness and improve implementation of the program as technology became more thoroughly integrated into education in recent years.



“Our philosophy is this: technology when it’s necessary and effective, and when it engages the learning environment,” says Adrian Acosta, Officer, Academic Instructional Technology. “The pandemic showed us that parents, especially, expect technology that allows students to interact, create and modify – and Learning.com provides that.”

“**Learning.com is robust. It’s the most comprehensive program we’ve been able to find that meets all of our needs.**”

– Adrian Acosta,  
Officer, Academic Instructional Technology

## GETTING STUDENTS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

In such a large district, schools inevitably take varying approaches to program implementation. So to start, Acosta’s team asked the district’s K-8 instructional technologists to leverage Learning.com’s modules on digital citizenship and online safety to meet federal requirements for CIPA, the Children’s Internet Protection Act, which includes the requirement for schools to teach students about cyberbullying and appropriate online communication. Once the students were exposed to the program though, they wanted to keep going through the technology application lessons to learn other important digital skills.

“We started a big communication campaign to our campuses to let them know we can support their students getting to the next level,” says Michele Herod, Education Technology Specialist, who oversees the implementation of EasyTech for HISD elementary and middle schools.

### ABOUT LEARNING.COM

Preparing students for success in our digital world

info@learning.com • 800.580.4640 • [learning.com](https://www.learning.com)

ET-SS-HISD-061523

**Learning.com**  
EXCEL IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Herod led the development of a scope and sequence for each grade level, making it simple for schools: just get their students on the program and they will work their way through the curriculum, starting with online safety and digital citizenship, then progressing into keyboarding, business applications such as word processing, spreadsheets and presentations along with computational thinking and coding lessons.

“Now, we partner with the school offices and principals to ensure they understand the value and how Learning.com integrates all these resources in one place,” says Acosta. “They don’t have to spend extra money on typing or digital citizenship software, they just need to make time for this program.”

HISD educators did exactly that.

### **MORE CONFIDENT, FAST AND EFFICIENT**

Currently, 82% of HISD K-8 students actively use EasyTech, a nearly three-fold increase from a few years’ earlier. In 2022-23 alone, students launched more than 1.5 million lessons on digital citizenship and online safety lessons and over 3 million launches of the additional technology applications lessons.

Plus, teachers say students are becoming more proficient, fluent and fast with their typing. That growing confidence with technology positively affects learning outcomes in core subjects, as well.

“The difference that I have seen with my students is that they feel more confident in utilizing their technology and have become more efficient in completing their assignments,” says Sheera Winn, a 7th grade ELA teacher. “In the beginning of the year, they would not complete as much of the assignment, because they would be so tuckered out trying to figure out where the keys are, that they would spend more time doing that than actually completing the work.”

That’s an improvement that is bound to boost students’ performance in online STAAR testing, as well.

“With STAAR being fully online, a lot of schools are noticing their students are not picking at the keys anymore,” says Acosta. “If you want your kids to type and be fast and efficient in tests, you want them to be on Learning.com.”



“**Learning.com gives the students the skills that we do not have time to teach them, so this application is very much appreciated.**”

— Sheera Winn,  
7th grade ELA teacher

#### **ABOUT LEARNING.COM**

Preparing students for success in our digital world.

info@learning.com • 800.580.4640 • [learning.com](https://www.learning.com)

ET-SS-HISD-061523

**Learning.com**  
EXCEL IN A DIGITAL WORLD