

SUCCESS STORY

Integrating Digital Skills Across the Curriculum and Grade Levels

FONTANA USD
FONTANA, CALIFORNIA

PK-12

35.5k students

30 elem schools

7 middle schools

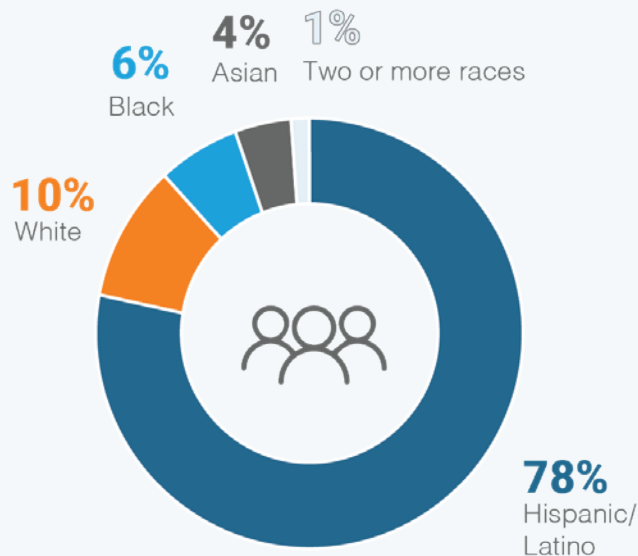
5 high schools

3 special campuses

84% f&r lunch

BEGINNING WITH BASICS

Fontana Unified School District serves a fast-growing community 50 miles east of Los Angeles, with 45 schools and 35,000 students. The district began piloting EasyTech in 2017, while offering class sets of laptops through edtech grants to schools that applied to be early adopters.



Director of professional development and teacher support Adele Thomas and coordinator of computer services Jose Segura – along with the help of a team of Instructional Tech Support Specialists and Digital Learning Wizards at each campus – encouraged teachers to implement EasyTech as part of a rotation

model, with a focus on the basics: keyboarding and digital citizenship lessons for E-rate compliance.

“We really try to encourage teachers to use Learning.com for keyboarding, as well as mouse skills and basic digital literacy skills,” says Thomas.

While remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the district’s plan to roll out 1:1 devices, it also highlighted students’ gaps in digital skills. High school teachers found students frustrated with typing one finger at a time to write entire essays, and some didn’t know how to scan a document to submit it online.

“**When we think of equity, it doesn’t matter which teacher or class the student is in. All across our district, we have to think about and monitor 21st century learning, digital skills, media literacy – for all of our students.**

– Adele Thomas, Director Professional Development and Teacher Support

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“Even though we would hope that our kids would have these skills coming into high school, we discovered this was an area that needed to be addressed for the majority of students,” says Thomas. So in response to teacher requests, Fontana USD made EasyTech available in its high schools, as well.

INTEGRATING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

When people ask, “who’s responsible for teaching digital skills?” Thomas’ response is “everyone.”

To make that possible, she works with Learning.com to provide both live and asynchronous professional development opportunities for teachers, and works with administrators across departments to ensure alignment as they implement EasyTech.

“We navigate between and amongst so many digital platforms, and Learning.com is so simple,” says Tricia Cordura, a 6th grade teacher at Wayne Ruble Middle School, and one of two Digital Wizards on the campus. Cordura began using the program in 2018 with students in her special education classes, and today she uses it with honors students in her English language arts classes as well as exploratory and social studies courses.

“I love, love, love the keyboarding and all that they can do independently of me,” Cordura says. “Students are not very well versed in proper keyboarding, especially today with all of the popular tech where they don’t need keyboarding.”

Cordura says getting started with EasyTech is easier than ever now that the district rosters the classes for her. But she also appreciates the ability to customize learning paths – for example, adjusting the accuracy targets in keyboarding for students in special

education or gifted education, and adding modules for her early finishers.

“Because we’re so digital platform-based, I assign my students word processing and research skills modules from Learning.com, as well,” Cordura says.

“I use EasyTech more now than ever.”



“**The pandemic made clear the relevancy of technology, but we didn’t have all of the pedagogy in place to integrate technology. Now we’re focusing on refining our practices into a more effective student learning environment.**”

— Adele Thomas, Director Professional Development and Teacher Support

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