

## SUCCESS STORY

# Starting with Online Safety, Expanding to Digital Skills for Success

## TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

PK-12

33.2k students

44 elem schools

10 middle schools

9 high schools

15 alt or charter

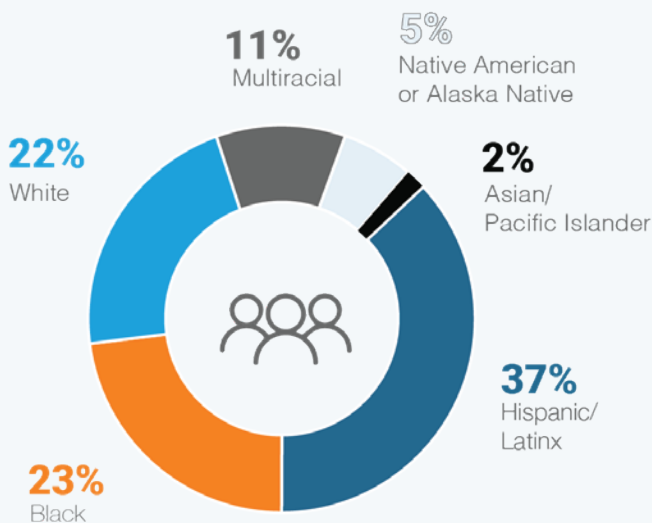
79% f&r lunch

### ENSURING INTERNET SAFETY

Tulsa Public Schools is the largest district in Oklahoma, serving over 33,000 students. TPS's manager of library services, Vicki Ruzicka, was looking for a digital curriculum to provide online safety training for students – that would also be easy for students to work on independently while the district's 70 librarians focused on checking out books.

Internet Protection Act (CIPA). But the COVID-19 pandemic created an urgent need for online safety training and more digital skills for the students across the district.

"With students suddenly being online so much, we needed to have even more emphasis around digital citizenship and online safety," Ruzicka says.



Ruzicka selected Learning.com's EasyTech K-12 digital literacy curriculum, and librarians across the district began implementing the program in 2019, with a focus on completing the online safety and digital citizenship lessons required by the federal Children's

“ We discovered that Learning.com met our need for online citizenship lessons, but also provided a foundation in the soft skills students need to be successful in college, career and life.

– Vicki Ruzicka, manager of library services

#### ABOUT LEARNING.COM

Preparing students for success in our digital world

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## BUILDING FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

To help districts grappling with the shift to remote and hybrid classes, Learning.com rolled out Tech Quest in 2020, a feature of EasyTech that automatically assigns auto-scored, student-led, self-paced, grade-level curriculum. TPS swiftly implemented Tech Quest.

Jessica Samaroo, the librarian at the dual immersion campus Felicitas Mendez International School, uses Tech Quest as part of her rotations in the library once a week. The gamified pathway allows students to choose an avatar, click on the first step and continue along their pathway, unlocking interactive lessons and videos that cover internet safety lessons required by CIPA, as well as other essential technology skills.

“We needed to do EasyTech for the digital citizenship lessons,” says Samaroo. “But once the teachers started adding it during their center rotations in class, the kids started going a lot farther with it.”

“The students enjoy it because they think it’s a game,” Samaroo adds. “We love it because we’re able to pull our CIPA reports really easily, and the teacher functionality is super easy to use.”

A few miles away at Lanier Elementary School, 2nd graders in Patricia Cox’s class also enjoy learning digital skills with EasyTech. At the beginning of the year, students marveled at Cox’s ability to type without looking at the keyboard. Now, thanks to their keyboarding practice in EasyTech, many of them are gaining that skill themselves.

“The kids just say it’s fun,” says Cox. “But I like that it’s so user friendly that the kids can figure it out easily.”

Student usage of EasyTech continues to grow year over year, and TPS is expanding the amount of

content it uses to meet increasing demand for digital skills. For example, the state’s computer science standards for elementary and middle schools will go into effect in 2024-25, and the district is currently piloting EasyTech modules in its computer science curriculum.

“We want to ensure all K-12 students have access to quality computer science instruction, and Learning.com is going to help us achieve that, too,” Ruzicka says.



“**Learning.com has helped bridge that gap of not just the safety part of using the internet, but also how to functionally use it. My kids now are already into coding, using their Chromebooks.**

— Patricia Cox, 2nd grade teacher

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