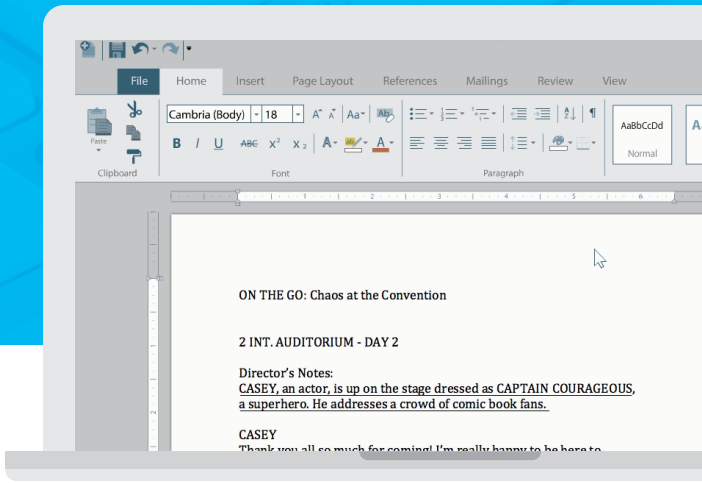
Student Engagement with EasyTech Leads to Higher Achievement on Computer-Based Assessments



Across the country, states have been migrating to computer-based standardized tests such as Smarter Balanced, ACT Aspire, NWEA, and others.

This new assessment modality has negatively impacted students' ability to demonstrate their academic proficiency in core content areas due to a digital skills gap.

In a GALLUP poll, 71 percent of elementary school teachers said their students are "Not well prepared" with the typing and digital skills needed for computer-based tests[1].

The Illinois State Board of Education found that students who took the PARCC English language arts exam in the traditional paper-and-pencil format were on average 19 percent more likely to score proficient versus students who took the exam online[2].

Baltimore County Public Schools found a strong "mode effect" in numerous grade-subject combinations. For example, middle school students who took the paper-based version of the PARCC English language arts exam scored almost 14 points higher than students who had equivalent demographic and academic backgrounds but took the computer-based test[3].

To demonstrate mastery during a computer-based test, students will need to have a minimum of the following digital skills:

- **Computer Fundamentals:** navigating computer hardware and software and demonstrating proper mouse operation
- **Keyboarding:** touch typing with accuracy and speed
- **Word Processing:** writing formatted responses
- **Spreadsheets:** gleaning information provided by a graphical data representation and creating similar graphs
- **Research and Evaluation of Online Resources:** use effective methods to find information, evaluate for validity, and pull information from longer sources

Learning.com's EasyTech is a comprehensive K-8 curriculum that develops students' digital skills including computer fundamentals, typing, digital citizenship and online safety, web browsing, email and online communication, visual mapping, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations, computational thinking, and coding fundamentals.

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

sales@learning.com • **800.580.4640** • **learning.com**

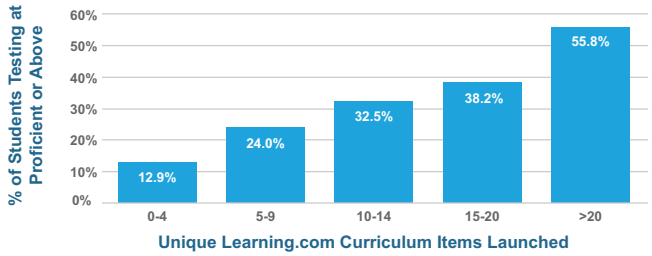
Learning.com

The Studies

To address student performance in computer-based tests, Learning.com partnered with three school districts to examine the correlation between EasyTech usage and performance on computer-based standardized tests.

In all three cases, student proficiency on each state's computer-based test showed a strong correlation with the use of EasyTech – the more they engaged with EasyTech, the higher their demonstrated proficiency.

Flagstaff USD - Arizona

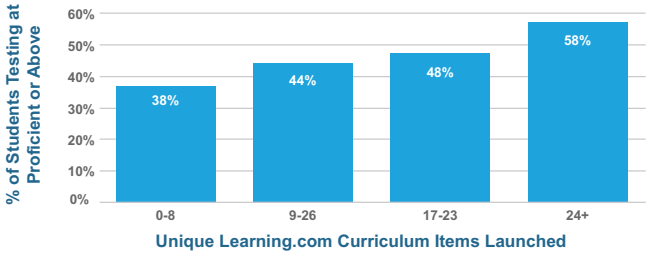


1,667 Students | Grades 3 & 5 | 10 Schools*

The ELA proficiency rates for top users of EasyTech were 4.3 times the proficiency rates of non and low users.

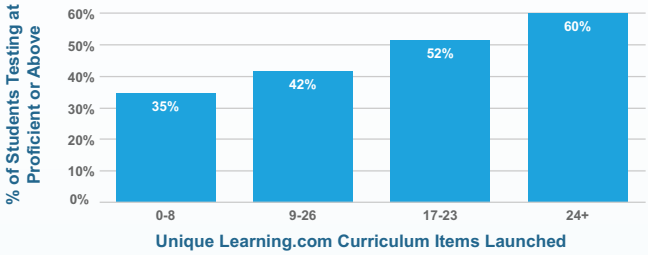
*Seven schools were Title 1 eligible during the period of study, thus allowing for socio-economic comparisons.

Peoria USD - Arizona



7,551 Students | Grades 4-6 | 33 Schools

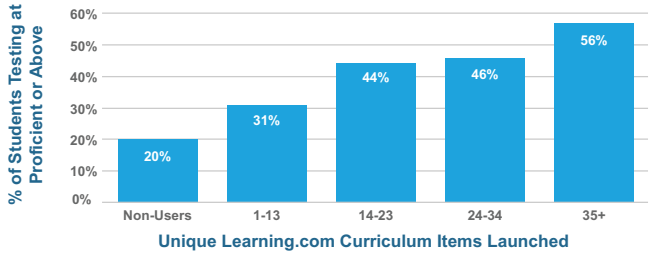
The ELA proficiency rates for top users of EasyTech were 1.5 times the proficiency rates of non and low users.



8,332 Students | Grades 4-6 | 33 Schools

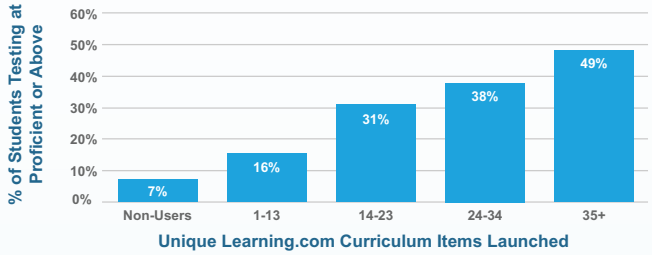
The math proficiency rates for top users of EasyTech were 1.7 times the proficiency rates for non and low users.

Indiana District



7,126 Students | Grades 3-11 | 22 Schools

The ELA proficiency rates for top users of EasyTech were 2.8 times the proficiency rates of non and low users.



6,911 Students | Grades 3-11 | 22 Schools

The math proficiency rates for top users of EasyTech were 7 times the proficiency rates of non and low users.

[1] "Comparing Paper and Computer Testing: 7 Key Research Studies.", Education Week, 2/23/16, http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/02/23/comparing-paper-and-computer-testing-7-key.html

[2] "PARCC Scores Lower for Students Who Took Exams on Computers", Education Week, 2/3/16, http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/02/03/parcc-scores-lower-on-computer.html

[3] "PARCC Scores Lower for Students Who Took Exams on Computers", Education Week, 2/3/16, http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/02/03/parcc-scores-lower-on-computer.html

Learning.com