

Elizabeth Forward

Apple's Swift Playgrounds Pilot Study Brief

Product Info

Product Name: Apple's Swift Playgrounds

Product Description: Swift Playgrounds is a new app for the iPad that teaches students to write Swift code in a fun, interactive way.

Learning Focus: 5th Grade Implementation in our Technology Courses to help support students going from block coding to text coding.

Educator Training: Apple has several teacher guides to help with the implementation of Swift. Elizabeth Forward's Technology Director also worked with Apple over the last

several years of the implementation of Swift Playgrounds.

Student Usage Minimum: Elizabeth Forward School District (EFSD) is a 1:1 iPads School District and students work at their own pace using Apple's Swift Playground.

Device Specifications: Elizabeth Forward School District used iPads to implement Apple's Swift Playground.

Cost: Apple Swift Playground is free and all of the teacher resources are free!

District Context

District demographics: Elizabeth Forward School District has 2,334 students and approximately 42% economically disadvantaged population. About 94% of students identify as white and 3% of students identify as Black.

Pilot demographics: Elizabeth Forward School District piloted Apple's Swift Playground in 5th grade in all three elementary schools with almost 200 students.

Pilot Goal

The goal of this pilot was to help students transition from block-base coding to text-base coding in 5th grade.

Implementation Plan

Duration: January 2017 - June 2017

Quality of Support: Professional Development was given to the technology integrator and the regular education teachers by Elizabeth Forward's Technology Director.

Implementation Model: Students worked with the technology integrator twice in a 10-day rotation with the regular education teacher in the room assisting students and learning from the technology integrator. This implementation model gives professional

development to the regular education teacher and the regular education teacher can continue with Swift Playground without the technology integrator being in the room.

Data collected: Apple's Swift Playgrounds app is very easy to gather information, the app identifies what levels each student has completed and the teachers collected this data throughout the pilot.

Findings

Actual implementation model: EFSD created non-screen time activities (kinesthetic learning) throughout the implementation of this pilot and the regular education teachers expanded the learning more than we anticipated without the technology integrator in the classroom.

Educator engagement: Elizabeth Forward School District was looking for a program to help students in the transition from block-based coding to text-based coding. The educators involved in this pilot were extremely engaged with this pilot to determine a solution to our problem. EFSD educators worked after school and on Saturdays to create activities beyond Swift Playground's teacher guides. EFSD educators created kinesthetic learning activities without screen time to make learning code fun and active.

Educator satisfaction: The regular education teachers and the technology integrator stated that the Apple's Swift Playground teacher guides truly helped them plan out each lesson and gave them ideas to support students at different levels of learning coding.

Student engagement: Apple's Swift Playground app truly personalizes the coding experience and students can go at their pace to learn text-base coding. All students were truly engaged in this new way of coding and were given an interest survey at the beginning and end of the pilot.

Student learning: Students started to really feel comfortable with writing text-base code compared to the last 5 years using block-base code. levels did not change. Though results varied by school, no findings were statistically significant.

Outcome

Purchasing Decision: Based on this pilot, Elizabeth Forward School District has decided to hire two additional technology integrators and dive deeper into Swift Playground for the 2017-2018 school year. The district also decided to offer a high school course on Swift programming.



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