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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear friends, supporters, and partners,
It's not a stretch to say this has been a banner year for Digital Promise. The organization continues to grow in reach and impact. Not too long ago, in 2021, we celebrated our tenth anniversary and

subsequently developed a set of goals and a strategic framework for the next 10 years. We continue to march towards the outcomes and impact we aim to see, and below I share some highlights.



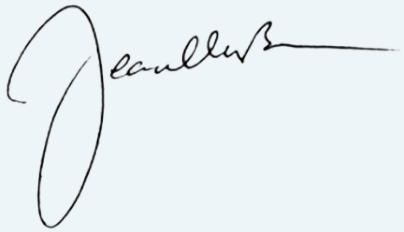
Our strategic framework outlines our work in inclusive innovation; our learning sciences research, much of which is conducted alongside our networks of some of the most innovative schools and leaders in the nation; and our work in education technology innovation, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in teaching and learning. While some were caught by surprise by the explosive growth of generative AI in education in the last year, we have long been working in this space, and we also know AI has been in education in some form for nearly 50 years. Our work on AI leans on policy and innovation, but it also leans on how practitioners can leverage AI to advance powerful learning in multiple ways.

In the last year, our work has also included an effort to reinvent how competencies in K-12, post-secondary education, and the workforce are connected, as well as the expansion of computational thinking pathways work in schools. These pathways focus on learning by emphasizing the specific skills that learners will develop over time, not only the tools they will use. A number of districts in the League of Innovative Schools are leading the way on developing computational thinking pathways for learners because they understand, as we do, that this is an effective way to prepare young people for the future of work.

Additionally, our Global Education team has taken shape and we are deliberately moving forward with engagements across multiple continents. While our work in Haiti has evolved, we are proud of the work of our partners on the ground to bring hybrid and remote learning to underserved parts of the country. Our Global Cities Education Network has also expanded to include more diverse voices and we look forward to their full engagement in the coming years.

As you move through this annual report, you will see that we have many more areas of accomplishment. This includes a number of groundbreaking papers that we published on topics like digital equity and digital transformation, sparking discussions on what must be done to better prepare and shape the future of education. The papers outline the foundation necessary to support school systems, educators, and learners in harnessing technology to improve learner outcomes and help leapfrog inequality. We also continue to be proud of the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program and the impact we have achieved through our partnership with Verizon, now reaching about 600 schools nationwide. These efforts are at the core of our digital equity work and central to our vision of learning experiences that lead to well-being, fulfillment, and economic mobility.

I am grateful for your support and partnership.



Jean-Claude Brizard

CEO, Digital Promise

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DIGITAL EQUITY

Digital Promise is committed to advancing digital equity for all learners, especially those who have been historically and systematically excluded. We have led this work for more than a decade by working to address the three pillars of digital equity –

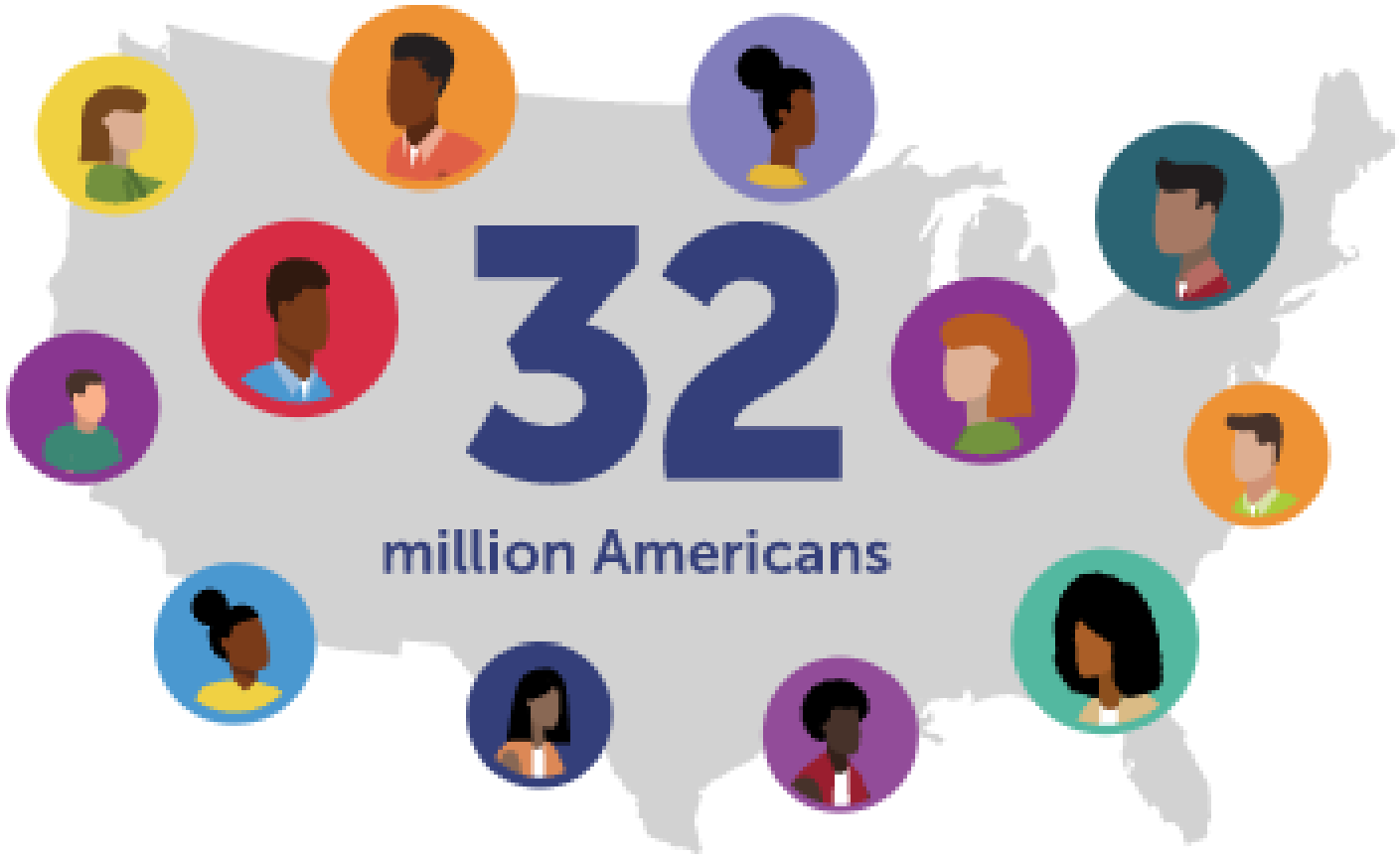
accessibility, **affordability**, and **adoption** of technology tools and skills.



19 million households struggle to access reliable,
high-speed broadband, especially in instances
where multiple individuals are accessing

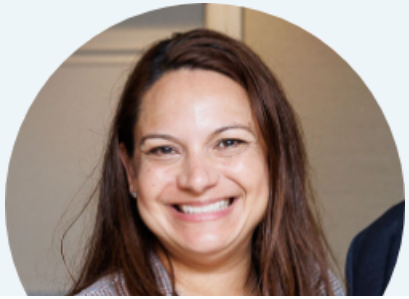


Of learners who do have internet access, 16 percent of adult learners reported sharing their device with others in their household, and 38 percent of learners reported primarily completing



32 million Americans have limited or no digital

“Digital equity ensures that all individuals have the technology resources to fully participate in society. In order to prepare our students and communities, we work to provide access and



opportunities to students and households that will positively impact future generations."

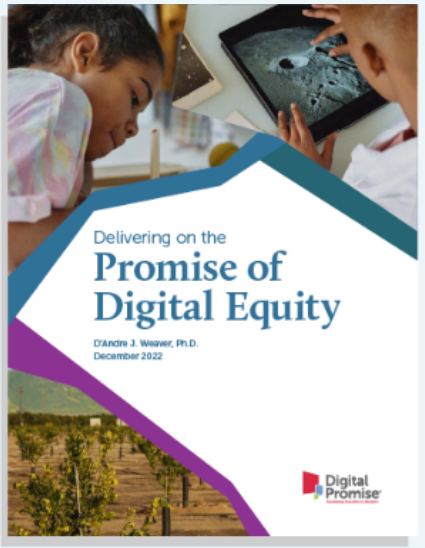
– Dr. Sara Martinez Crawford



Learn More About Digital Equity >

Delivering on the Promise of Digital Equity

The "Delivering on the Promise of Digital Equity" report is designed to help state and local community leaders find effective ways for investing funding from the $65 billion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in K-12 education to increase digital equity.



Read the Report

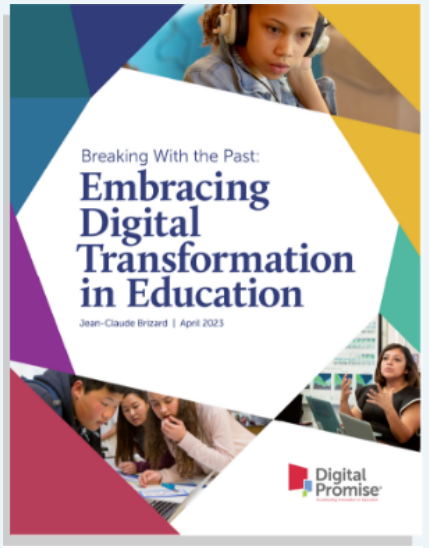
The report includes:

- An overview of what we know about the digital skills and knowledge necessary for success.
- An outline of where the largest gaps exist.
- Proposed solutions (“9 Big Plays”) to close those gaps, based on Digital Promise’s research and policy efforts and our direct work with district and school leaders.



Breaking With the Past

Our belief that digital transformation must be the rule and not the exception in education is the animating force for our report, "Breaking With the Past: Embracing Digital Transformation in Education." It looks forward to the future when we will have harnessed the power of technology in a coherent and scaffolded way to solve long-standing challenges created by the traditional approach to education, including its inability to deliver equitable opportunities and outcomes generation after generation.



Read the Report

Read this report to learn:

1. How the traditional one-size-fits-all approach to teaching and learning compares to more learner-centered, personalized, and motivating frameworks; why we need to transition to them at scale; and how digital technologies now enable that scaling.
2. Why educational technology is not a silver bullet, but rather an enabler of powerful pedagogy delivered by teachers, who are the heart and soul of the digital transformation of classroom learning.

3. Specific components of systems and the education ecosystem that we need to build out with coherence, coordination, and the participation of school districts, state agencies, philanthropies, and others to support and sustain digital transformation.

> "The nation's learners can't wait for many more tomorrows to come and go without a broad national commitment to breaking the outmoded framework for American education."
>
> ***– Jean-Claude Brizard***



Advancing Digital Equity

On Digital Learning Day in March 2023, Digital Promise's Jean-Claude Brizard and Dr. D'Andre Weaver joined leaders from Verizon and ISTE to discuss how to achieve greater digital equity for learners.

Watch Beyond Access: Advancing Digital Equity >



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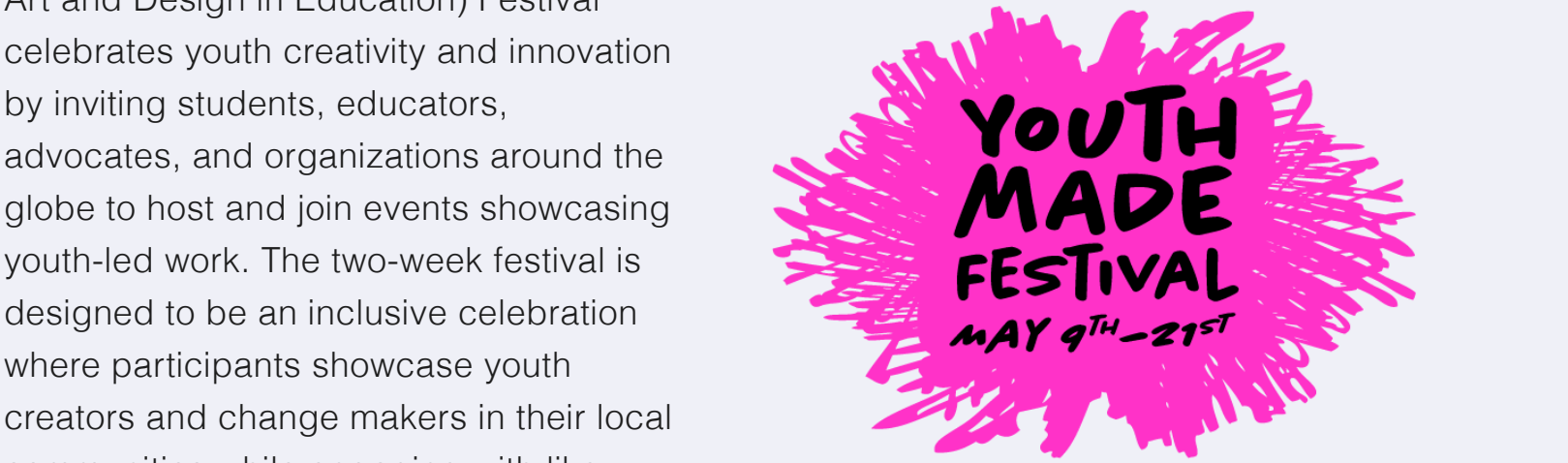
CENTERING STUDENTS

Education transformation cannot happen without the input of learners, particularly those who have been historically and systematically excluded. Students are at the heart of education and should have a role in developing meaningful experiences of powerful

learning that best fit their needs and interests. Digital Promise is committed to centering student voices to advance equity and innovation in education.

YouthMADE

The YouthMADE (Youth Making, Activism, Art and Design in Education) Festival celebrates youth creativity and innovation by inviting students, educators, advocates, and organizations around the globe to host and join events showcasing youth-led work. The two-week festival is designed to be an inclusive celebration where participants showcase youth creators and change makers in their local communities while engaging with like-minded peers around the globe.





Meet eight students from the 2023 festival who are using creativity and innovation to make a difference on hunger, the environment, justice, and more.

Student Tech Teams

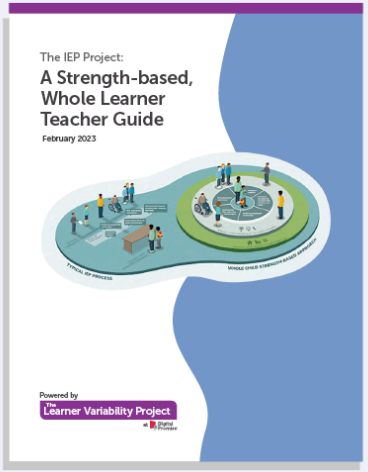
Student tech teams are an integral part of the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools initiative. They not only help with resolving device issues, but they also provide an opportunity for students to take on leadership roles, develop a STEM-based skill set, and collaborate in an innovative learning environment.





The IEP Project

Individual Education Programs (IEPs) are the entry point to the design of teaching and learning for students with documented disabilities. Digital Promise's guidebook, created by teachers for teachers, provides reflective questions, a sample response bank, strategies from the research-based Learner Variability Navigator, and other resources to write strength-based and whole child IEPs that provide learners with the tools they need to meet their potential.



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EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

Educators [illegible] to uplifting and supporting learners. They are essential to transforming the learning landscape and bringing about more equitable outcomes. Digital Promise works to provide educators the tools, networks, resources,

and professional development opportunities that empower them to best serve learners.

Teacher Tech Summit

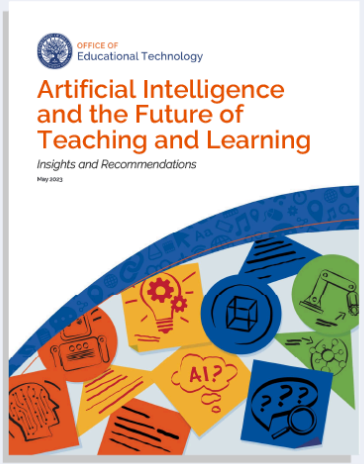
Digital Promise joined T4 Education, the World Bank, and Owl Ventures to co-host the Teacher Tech Summit USA, part of a series of virtual events around the world that bring educators together for a day of professional learning to explore the latest topics in classroom tech. This professional learning opportunity shines a spotlight on teachers, giving them the space to demonstrate how they are using technology every day to reach and engage their students. Since 2021, the Teacher Tech Summit has convened more than 40,000 attendees around the topic of classroom tech.



AI in Education

Coinciding with the recommendation of the Office of Educational Technology's policy report "Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning," Digital Promise believes it is essential to center humans in applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in the classroom. Our starting point is that AI systems should support or augment, but never replace, a teacher.

Foundational AI knowledge is necessary to understand the social and ethical implications of AI and to mitigate risks of bias. To further support AI literacy for educators, Digital Promise created a new page sharing our current work on the topic and highlighting a series of blog posts and resources.

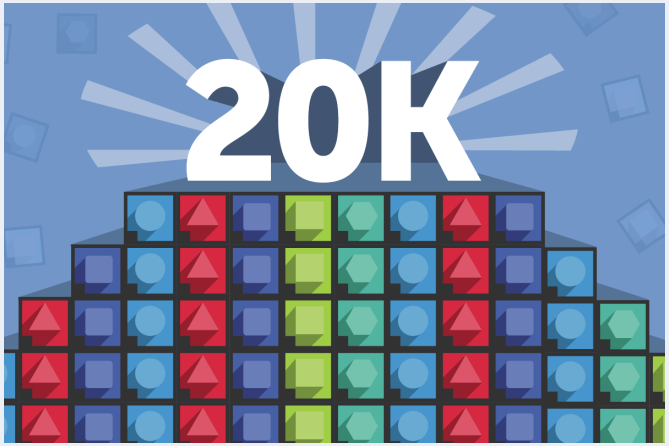


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Micro-credentials

Competency-based micro-credentials have provided learners with new ways of engaging and verifying their skills. Once a novel idea, micro-credentials are now a valued part of a robust credentialing ecosystem that continues to evolve.

Over the last decade, Digital Promise's work has resulted in almost 35,000 registered users who have earned more than 20,000 micro-credentials. These micro-credentials have addressed topics such as computational thinking, inclusive innovation, supporting students in digital learning environments, refugee education, financial literacy, media literacy, culturally diverse and responsive instruction, social-emotional learning, and so much more. Users have found success in finding the micro-credentials that best suit their needs using the Micro-credential Explorer and Digital Promise Micro-credential Platform.



Computational Thinking Pathways at Talladega



Talladega County Schools in Alabama offers a proofpoint of what it looks like for a district to embed Computational Thinking (CT) Pathways into the fabric of its schools.

As hosts of our League of Innovative Schools spring convening, the district showed how students can engage in CT activities on devices, in their English and history classes, in science and math, when they visit the library, and in their health science elective. Importantly, CT skills and practices are not confined to a single computer science elective or afterschool activity; they are embedded across the curriculum in every course students take. To accomplish this, it's important to provide the coaching necessary to prepare educators to bring computational thinking to their practice.

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ECONOMIC MOBILITY

One of Digital Promise's driving goals is to enable historically and systematically excluded learners to achieve credentials that offer economic mobility and security over the course of their lives. Over the last year, Digital Promise conducted research, developed resources,

and gathered courses to help learners grow in their professional journey.

Career and Technical Education

In August 2022, Digital Promise acquired the *Preparing a Global Workforce:* Career and Technical Education (CTE) program from Asia Society. CTE educators face a critical imperative: to prepare all students for work and civic roles in a world where success increasingly requires the ability to compete, connect, and cooperate on an international scale. To meet that need, Digital Promise has partnered with organizations and other educators to develop professional development courses and resources that can help CTE educators incorporate global competence education into their work.

Designing Pathways for Rural Learners Using Micro-credentials

In “Micro-credentials for Social Mobility in Rural Postsecondary Communities: A Landscape Report”, Digital Promise conducted four in-depth case studies to explore how postsecondary institutions are using micro-credentials to create real-time career pathways for rural learners.

These innovations are:

- Focused on supporting social mobility for poverty-impacted rural learners
- Prioritizing outreach to communities of color, returning citizens, and women
- Designing affordable, flexible, and meaningful skills training through micro-credentials
- Strengthening regionally specific industry-educator partnerships



Read the Report

The Kentucky Valley Education Cooperative (KVEC) provides free, competency-based flexible, professional learning opportunities for rural K-12 educators via micro-credentials.

The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) serves thousands of learners of varied backgrounds and reaches residents statewide, including those enrolled in adult education programs.

Tennessee State University (TSU), one of the oldest Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the nation, has a history of significantly contributing to the educational journeys of generations of Black populations across the urban and rural south.

The University of Maine System's All Learning Counts–ME initiative aims to connect Maine's most rural communities to gainful employment opportunities in growing fields of IT, technology, and healthcare via micro-credentials.

Explore The Case Studies >

Learning and Employment Records (LERs)

Learning and Employment Records (LERs) are comprehensive digital records of an individual's skills, competencies, credentials, and employment history that may be able to show a complete picture of an individual's education and work experiences.

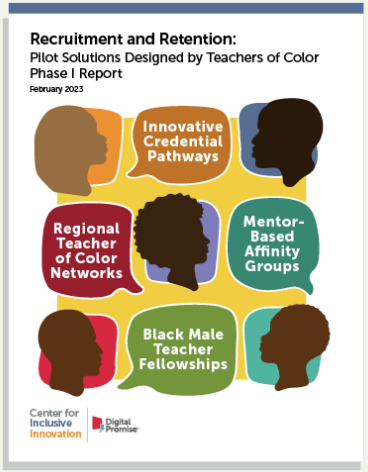
Digital Promise partnered with historically and systematically excluded (HSE) learners using LERs to develop a set of design principles to help inform the development of LERs during an individual's learning transitions. The report, "Learning Transition Design Principles for Learning and Employment Records: Co-designing for Equity," shares insights from this collaborative work with HSE learners and workers and their recommendations regarding opportunities and challenges, which culminated in the design principles that support learning, career, and life transitions.



Recruitment and Retention Solutions Designed by Teachers of Color

Over the past three years, Digital Promise's Center for Inclusive Innovation has supported a cohort of local education agencies (LEAs) in a series of design studios and coaching to enable teachers of color to envision and bring to life solutions to pressing pipeline and shortage challenges by drawing on their expertise and lived experience.

The Center's report, "Recruitment and Retention: Pilot Solutions Designed by Teachers of Color," shares exciting solutions that have been co-designed and developed by teachers of color in partnership with school district leaders, building leaders, higher education institutions, and partners.



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POWER OF COMMUNITY

Learning has never been something that stops outside the confines of school walls. Digital Promise sees community involvement as a way to create powerful learning opportunities, while also helping find solutions to the issues that hit closest to home.

Ciena Solutions Challenge

The Ciena Solutions Challenge, a global design challenge inviting middle and high school students to design solutions that address the Sustainable Development Goals within their communities, launched another round in 2022.

Digital Promise celebrated 100 projects submitted, including 20 projects that received a 2023 Ciena Solutions Challenge Sustainability Award and 24 from the Ciena Solutions Challenge Model Schools in Atlanta, Georgia, and Ottawa, Canada. From an anti-vaping campaign in Colorado in the United States, to an interception device to prevent garbage from entering the ocean in Taiwan, these projects showcase the talents of youth creators and changemakers from around the world.

Hear from educators whose students have participated in the design challenge:

- 

- 

- 

Community Stories



Photo courtesy of Neil Arnett.

There's a long-held assumption that technical creativity and innovation in the United States are largely limited to the confines of California's Silicon Valley and the northeast United States. However, rural communities have long maintained problem-solving cultures that can be relevant to present-day concerns.

Digital Promise partnered with two school districts in Eastern Kentucky to support the design of computational thinking (CT) lessons that are connected to their local, cultural heritage of problem solving. The Drawing on Kinship project also supports the districts to host parent nights and a student project showcase that reinforce connections between CT education, local needs, and heritage.

Mary Slone, a high school teacher at Floyd County Schools in Kentucky, attended a training where she and other educators shared the stories around objects displaying ingenuity. This led to a revelation:

> *From brown-bag faux hornet's nest to quilts to modified lawnmowers, each story was a reminder that I, along with my peers,*

> *have borne witness and been impacted by makers—people who live on the edge of disruption and choose to use it as an agent.*
>
> *– Mary Slone, a high school teacher at Floyd County Schools in Kentucky*

Surrounded by this "Appalachian Ingenuity," there was an entire ecosystem of makers, creators, problem-solvers just waiting to be tapped by local students. At this training, teachers began brainstorming ways their students could identify problems in their community, thus creating a motivated, invested innovator, who could draw on a long history of ingenuity.

Emerging Findings from Inclusive Innovation: An Equity-Centered R&D Model

Since the release of Digital Promise's white paper, "Designing a Process for Inclusive Innovation," the Center for Inclusive Innovation has engaged over 30 districts in 7 initiatives, spanning priority topics that include adolescent engagement in writing, student-led professional development on mental health and racial trauma, culturally relevant Socratic circle discourse, teachers of color recruitment and retention, data equity and interoperability, cybersecurity pathways for opportunity youth, and equitable school systems transformation.

Based on the in-depth pilots of the Inclusive Innovation model with four community-district teams, Digital Promise researchers conducted cross-project studies on: the role of context expertise, the role of student voice, capacity building, racial equity, and the nature of

outcomes in Inclusive Innovation. The teams comprise students, family members, teachers, school leaders, district administrators, and other community members who interact with and support youth.

This initial series, *Emerging Findings from Inclusive Innovation: An Equity-Centered R&D Model*, presents our learnings from 2021 to 2022. We share ongoing progress and lessons based on our experiences with Inclusive Innovation so that as a field, we can generate demand and collectively drive towards inclusive and equity-driven innovation that truly centers and benefits those from historically and systematically excluded communities.



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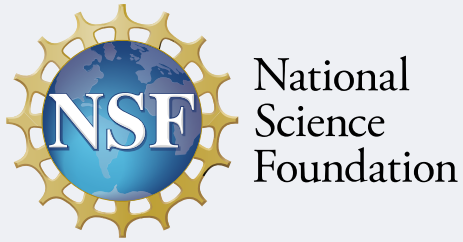

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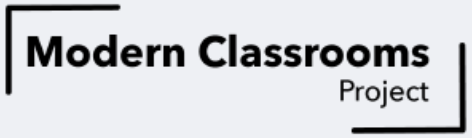

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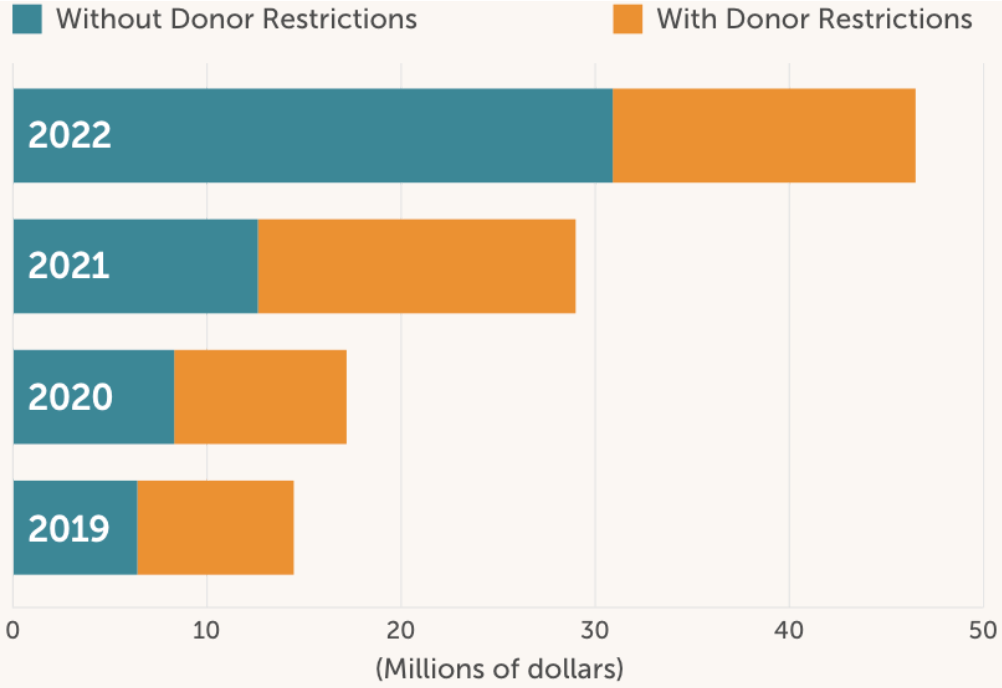

SMART
Technologies


verizon
innovative
learning


zoom

FINANCIALS

Net Assets, by Year



2022 Revenue, by Source

Total 2022 Revenue = $183.1 million
Cash = $75.1 Million
Contributed goods and services = $108 Million

