



Digital Promise Learner Variability Project (LVP) Releases New Math Learner Models

LVP's Navigator web app provides learning sciences research through a user-friendly tool for educators and product developers

January 15, 2019 | Washington, D.C. – Digital Promise's Learner Variability Project (LVP) has released two new math learner models for [grades 3–6](#) and [grades 7–9](#). Each model puts current learning sciences research at the fingertips of edtech product developers and teachers to help them reach the full diversity of learners in today's classrooms. All are available on LVP's Navigator web app, which also includes a Pre-K–grade 2 math learner model, a Pre-K–grade 3 reading learner model, and a grades 4–6 literacy learner model.

A free and open-source resource, the Navigator follows a whole-child approach to learning. Its framework consists of factors and strategies in the following areas: content, cognition, social and emotional learning, and student background. The Navigator recently underwent several additional updates to make it even more user-friendly:

- Re-designed strategy pages with simplified presentation and improved visuals that show the factors supported by a strategy (here is an [example from the grades 7–9 math learner model](#));
- Improved ways for users to create and share collections of learning factors and strategies in workspaces;
- Hundreds of new resource cards that provide free professional development opportunities, further research, and tools for using the strategies in the classroom; and
- Streamlined navigation that allows for easier exploration of content.

Karen Cator, president and CEO of Digital Promise, said, "Our mission to accelerate innovation and improve learning opportunity is manifested in the Navigator—a tool that strives to present research-based learning factors and strategies so that developers and educators alike have a better chance of supporting every student."

The grades 7-9 math learner model, for example, highlights research on how the role of social supports and relationship skills become increasingly important for adolescents. In regard to

math, adolescents rely on their parents or guardians, teachers, and peers to develop strong math mindsets, which will allow them to better persevere through challenges in higher-level math.

The previously developed Pre-K–grade 2 math learner model provided the foundation for the new models. A goal of the new upper elementary learner model is to support students making deeper connections among mathematical concepts while forming their identities as confident math learners. The secondary math model shows how students can continue to learn to reason abstractly and construct arguments using math.

“We are fortunate to work with top researchers serving as advisors for each of our learner models,” said Vic Vuchic, Chief Innovation Officer of Digital Promise Global. “With these latest updates, we hope to support even more product developers and practitioners to personalize learning based on what research says are the most important factors in learning.”

The Advisory Board for the new math models included:

- Maria Blanton, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, TERC
- Susan Empson, Ph.D., Professor of Learning, Teaching & Curriculum, University of Missouri
- Gerardo Ramirez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology, Ball State University
- Bethany Rittle-Johnson, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology & Human Development, Vanderbilt University
- Jeremy Roschelle, Ph.D., Executive Director of Learning Sciences Research, Digital Promise Global

For more information, please visit the [Learner Variability Project’s Navigator](#) web app and watch our latest video, “[How to Help Students Build Positive Mindsets Around Math](#),” featuring Gerardo Ramirez, Ph.D.

Press Contact:

Erica Lawton Weinschenk

Digital Promise

202-450-3675

erica@digitalpromise.org

###



About Digital Promise Global

Digital Promise Global is a nonprofit organization working to spur innovation in education. By working with educators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and leading thinkers, Digital Promise Global leverages technology, taps into research, and shares powerful stories to improve the opportunity to learn around the world. This work supports people's development of learner agency, and their ability to operate in a global context. For more information, visit the [Digital Promise Global website](#) and follow [@Global_DP](#) for updates.

