



Digital Promise Prioritizes Learning Sciences as Indicator for Edtech Quality

New report highlights the value of learning sciences research as a basis for edtech design

FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | Washington, D.C. – [Digital Promise](#)'s new report, [An Overlooked Indicator of Edtech Quality: The Use of Learning Sciences Research](#), discusses how leveraging an edtech product's research-basis can help education leaders to determine the quality of edtech tools. Through survey results and several case studies, Digital Promise has examined the importance of using learning sciences research as a basis for edtech design.

The report's findings resulted in a relaunch of Digital Promise's Research-Based Design Product Certification, designed for tools to confirm a link between research on how students learn and their product's design. Digital Promise's [Product Certifications](#) are developed in collaboration with educators and education leaders and serve as rigorous, reliable signals for edtech that is intentionally designed to meet learners' authentic needs. The updated product certification, [Research-Based Design for Instructional Learning Products](#), requires products to consider the populations involved in the research used to inform design, calls for the identification of more empirical studies in explaining the product design, and offers applicants useful templates to submit evidence.

"Learners deserve to access edtech that is built based on the field's best understanding of learning sciences research," says Sierra Noakes, project director of the Marketplace initiative at Digital Promise. "We're thrilled to have certified 60 products in the certification's first two years. We took the anniversary as an opportunity to support products in reflecting on the demographic makeup of those involved in the studies they've leveraged for design decisions compared to the demographics of the learners who use the tool. Our expectations of edtech should continue to evolve and grow with the dynamic movement of the field."

Finding the right edtech to support learners' unique needs is important now more than ever. Digital Promise Product Certifications are a foundation for exploring and vetting various tools and can serve as a great resource to utilize while sifting through options.

“We are not building products just for the sake of building products. We’re asking how we can solve for the problems that exist today,” said Suzanne Lucas, vice president of digital product marketing for Scholastic Education Solutions.”

In addition to relaunching the first certification, Digital Promise has also launched a new Product Certification in response to requests from the field. The [Research-Based Learning Analytics Product Certification](#) signals that products that were designed based on empirical research about decision making to support education leaders searching for and selecting learning analytics tools.

The [Research-Based Design for Instructional Learning](#) certification uses a competency-based learning framework, developed in consultation with more than 100 educators across the United States, as well as with Digital Promise’s Learner Variability, Marketplace, and Learning Sciences Research teams. Find further detail about certification development on our [website](#).

[Applications](#) remain open to product developers interested in applying for the certifications.

Digital Promise encourages all developers, educators, edtech investors, and families to sign the Research-Based Product Promise to demand high-quality, research-driven products that support each unique learner. For more information on Product Certifications, please visit: productcertifications.digitalpromise.org.

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About Digital Promise

Digital Promise is a nonprofit organization that builds powerful networks and takes on grand challenges by working at the intersection of researchers, entrepreneurs, and educators. Our vision is that all people, at every stage of their lives, have access to learning experiences that help them acquire the knowledge and skills they need to thrive and continuously learn in an ever-changing world. For more information, visit the [Digital Promise website](#) and follow [@digitalpromise](#) for updates.

