

SUCCESS STORY

Typing Program Overhauled by District to Meet New State Requirements



PROTAGONIST

Sarah Stoddard

Technology Implementation
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SETTING

Kent School District

Kent, Washington

28 Elementary Schools

6 Middle Schools

4 High Schools

3 Academies

1 Early Learning Center

⚠️ Conflict

At the Kent School District, typing is deemed core curriculum, and teacher-librarians are tasked with providing essential training to teachers to help them facilitate technology-centric instruction that builds students' typing skills. Teachers are expected to provide daily typing practice opportunities and regularly integrate this skill into core content instruction.

Washington's adoption of new core standards, which include technology-based skills, and impending computer adaptive assessments prompted the district introduce an initiative to replace its outdated typing program. Beyond this, the district also wanted to overhaul technology instruction with a program promoting 21st century skills.

✅ Resolution

Sarah Stoddard joined the special review committee tasked with identifying an in-depth and comprehensive typing solution. Beyond alignment to new standards and preparation for online tests, evaluation criteria included quality assessments and instructional design, multi-lingual capabilities, and staff development resources.

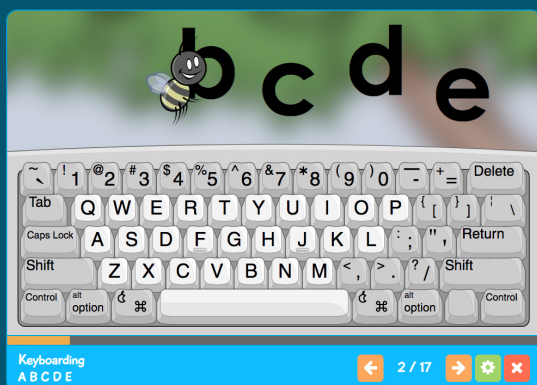
In their search, Learning.com's EasyTech quickly became one of two finalists. To finalize their recommendation, Stoddard helped execute field testing in a district-wide pilot for one month. Based on the positive reception by teachers and staff, EasyTech was selected. Originally implemented in fourth through sixth grade, the continuous positive feedback enabled the district to implement the solution for students starting in second grade.

Now, with an updated typing program in place, Stoddard and the district have expressed interest in EasyTech's other curriculum areas like digital citizenship as well as computational thinking and coding.

"As we continue our partnership with Learning.com, we hope to identify gaps in our instruction that could be filled with the other offerings included in EasyTech. Having such a positive relationship with Learning.com will help us look to them for future solutions."

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

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