



**EDINBURG
CONSOLIDATED
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
EDINBURG, TEXAS

District Boosts Student Success and STAAR Scores with Focus on TA-TEKS

“When students have the technology skills, it gives the teachers more time to focus on teaching the content.”

Gina Alamia
Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District

EDINBURG CISD AND LEARNING.COM

Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District serves 34,000 students in an area spanning 940-square-miles on Texas’ southern border, encompassing both rural communities and major cities. The district has used Learning.com products for more than a decade for keyboarding, as well as digital citizenship and online safety, as required by CIPA, the Children’s Internet Protection Act.

But district instructional technology specialist Gina Alamia saw potential for more.

As the district prepared for the updated Technology Applications Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TA-TEKS) in 2024, **Alamia led efforts to embed Learning.com programs across the curriculum**, including Tech Quest, EasyTech, EasyCode as well as the TechApps for Texas state-adopted curriculum.

“Working alongside our curriculum and instruction teams, I saw the benefits of Learning.com for our students, not only to learn to use digital platforms in a way that feels empowering instead of passive, but in terms of enhancing their engagement with the curriculum,” said Alamia.

The district developed curriculum guides, working with the Learning.com team to map out keyboarding, digital citizenship, online safety, coding, computational thinking, data literacy and blended learning assignments aligned with their grades’ instructional content.

The results speak for themselves:



Our 3rd through 5th grade STAAR scores were phenomenal, and the increase aligned with the implementation of Learning.com, so you have to draw the inference that it has something to do with the program.

Gina Alamia
District Instructional Technology Specialist



EDINBURG CISD



43 Schools



34K Students



38% ELL



83% Free & Reduced Lunch

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Growth in STAAR “Masters or Meets” Grade Level



School years 2023-24 to 2024-25
Grades 3-5

+8.6 ↑

Percentage
Points Gained
in **Math**

Villarreal
Elementary

+11.4 ↑

Percentage
Points Gained
in **Reading**

Eisenhower
Elementary

+23.3 ↑

Percentage
Points Gained
in **Science**

Brewster
Elementary

TRANSFORMING THE APPROACH TO TA-TEKS

Getting buy-in from principals, teachers, librarians and instructional technologists at their 43 campuses, Alamia and her team drove an implementation “done with fidelity and done with purpose.”

“We started with 15-20 minutes, 2-3 times per week on Learning.com, and we saw the benefits of improving their typing accuracy, precision, and time on task,” said Alamia.

When foundational technology skills became second nature – typing, using a mouse, navigating digital spaces – it was easier for students to give their full attention to the core subjects that increasingly require digital skills. “We noticed that when students have the technology skills, it gives the teachers more time to focus on teaching the content.”

Students can engage at any time or during “Tech Tuesday” or “Tech Friday” from their classroom or computer lab. Their teachers follow the curriculum guide to know exactly what the students should be working on. Plus, teachers can pull in Spanish-language modules when needed for the 38% of their students who are English language learners. Once they saw the benefits of Learning.com, educators embraced the program.

“I love how Learning.com integrates seamlessly with our curriculum, making digital skills accessible and engaging for students,” said Joe Moreno, a 5th grade teacher.



“Learning.com has truly transformed the way we approach digital literacy, and I believe it’s an invaluable resource for preparing students for the future,” Moreno added. **“Especially the lessons on how to navigate online bullying, proper commenting online, and how to care for our laptops, etc. Those are all issues we currently have and Learning.com is a great support in addressing these issues.”**



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Moreno's class won a coding competition in the district last year – an example of the gamification Alamia introduced to help motivate classes and schools to focus on digital skills and mastering TA-TEKS. An advocate of data-driven instruction, Alamia uses Learning.com's robust reporting tools to track program launches, activities completed, and student growth, then shares weekly leaderboards with the schools. To help keep everyone motivated, the district hosts a keyboarding competition in the first half of the school year, and a coding competition in the second part.

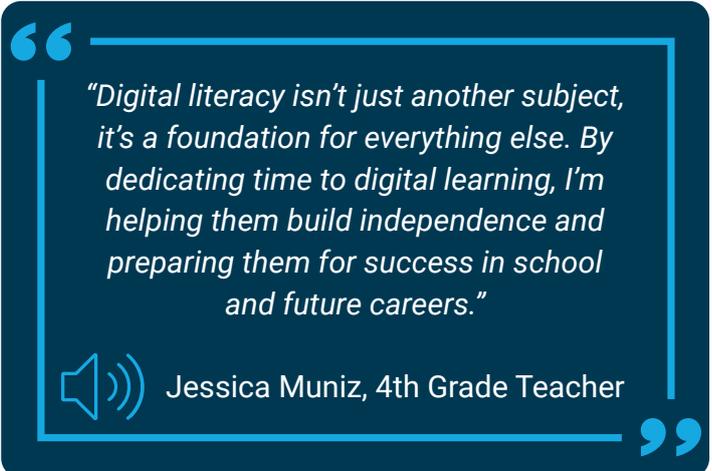
Mastering keyboarding and the digital literacy skills encompassed in TA-TEKS have been key to student success.

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

After the district's laser focus on incorporating Learning.com throughout the curriculum in third through fifth grade, meeting weekly with instructional technologists, and providing feedback on student progress through the program, **administrators noticed a significant jump in their STAAR test scores.**

"When it comes to STAAR testing, especially writing their short and extended constructed response, we know that **students can better articulate their thoughts now because we have eliminated the barrier of technology proficiency,**" said Alamia.

"But for Edinburg educators and administrators, digital skills are about more than success on high-stakes tests. It's about equipping them for the future.



"The skills acquired have helped my students, especially in their short and extended writing responses and during weekly tests," said Jessica Muniz, a 4th grade teacher. "They also **navigate online testing platforms more easily, complete projects more efficiently, and collaborate better with their peers.** These skills also help them think critically and prepare for real-world situations beyond the classroom."



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