



The Shift to Digital Learning



Illustration by Ben Wiseman

10 Benefits

The shift from print to digital is a profound transition in how human beings learn. It is more significant than the development of the printing press and its benefits are spreading much more quickly. Like the printing press six centuries ago, this transition is transforming formal education and spreading informal learning opportunities. Here are 10 key ways that learning will benefit from the **shift to digital**.

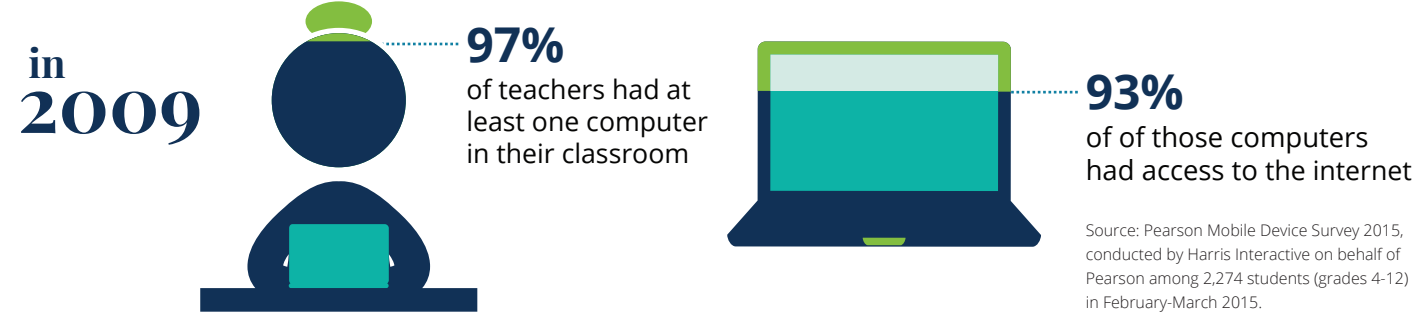
1 Personalized Learning



The opportunity to help every student learn at the best pace and path for them is the most important benefit of digital learning. Customizing learning sequences for each student will make education more productive. We can more quickly diagnose special needs, can address learning gaps and accelerate progress for all students.

According to the **Institute of Education Sciences Center for Education Statistics**, in 2009 97% of teachers had at least one computer in their classroom and 93% of those computers had access to the Internet. By 2015, schools and districts have begun to embrace a variety of devices and learning models that integrate technology effectively.

The 2015 Pearson Student Mobile Device Survey identifies that elementary students prefer tablets, whereas high school students and teachers are drawn to smartphones and chromebooks. Check out **more trend data here**.



2 Extended Opportunities

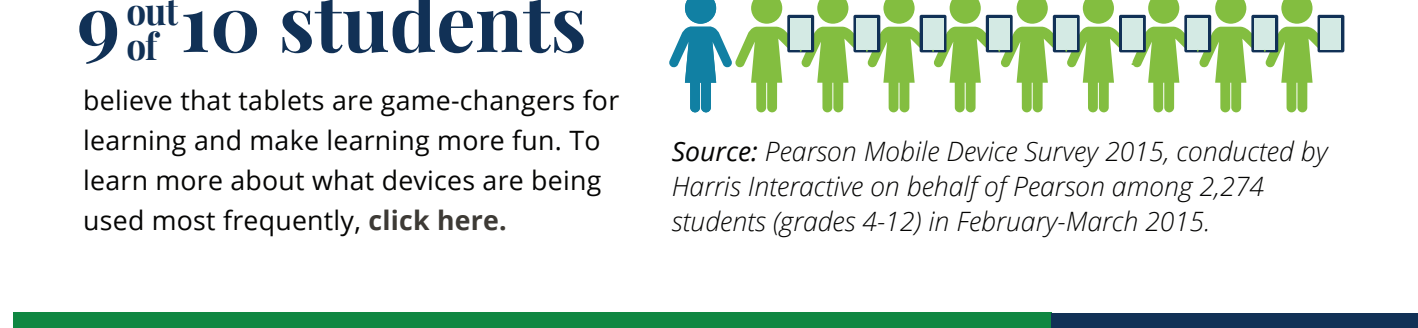
Access to full and part-time online learning means that every student, state policy permitting, has access to many world languages, college preparatory curriculum and advanced studies. It is remarkable that thousands of university courses by the best professors are available for free to anyone with a broadband connection.



3 High Engagement Learning



The shift to digital can boost student motivation. Anyone who has witnessed the engagement of game-based learning can appreciate the potential to create learning experiences that boost persistence. High agency learning recognizes learners as active participants in their own learning and engages them in the design of their experiences and the realization of their learning outcomes in ways appropriate for their developmental level. The shift to digital allows us to engage students and provide immediate, meaningful feedback more efficiently than was ever possible before.



4 Competency-based Learning

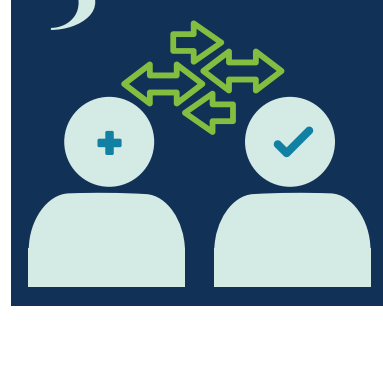
Digital learning causes us to shift our view on student progression and opens the door for competency-based learning in which students show what they know and progress based on demonstrated mastery. Competency-based learning is possible in paper and pencil but it is hard to monitor and manage an individual progress model at scale. **Flex blends** support individual progress. Dynamic grouping, workshops, and project-based learning can add lots of collaborative learning to an individual progress model.



Because competency-based learning changes everything about school, the transition from age cohorts to individual progress models will take longer.

This is a generational shift.

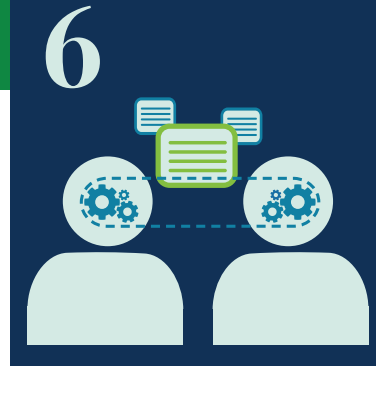
5 Assessment for Learning



Digital learning powers continuous feedback from content-embedded assessment, games, simulations and adaptive learning. When students can track their own progress it can improve motivation and agency.

6 Collaborative Learning

Digital learning powers collaboration. Social learning platforms like **Edmodo** make it easy for teachers to create and manage groups. Collaborative authoring environments like Google Docs make it easy for teams (near and far) to co-author documents and presentations.



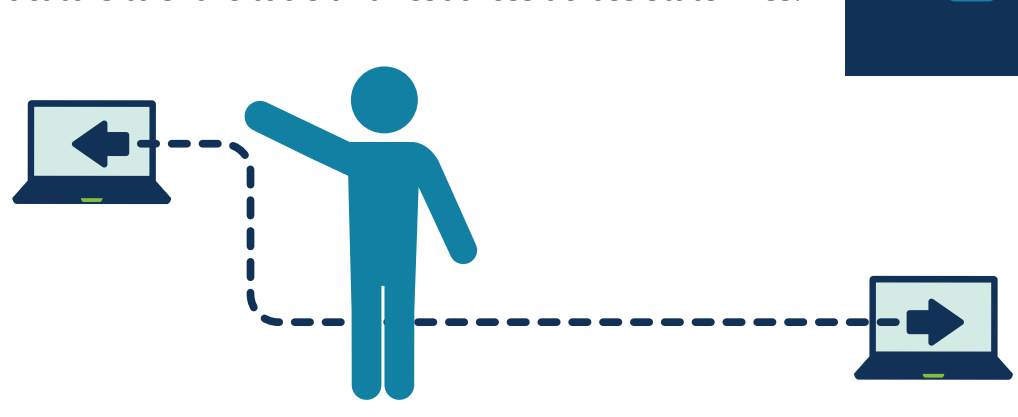
7 Quality Learning Products



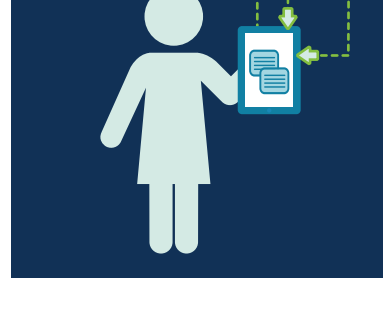
Digital learning tools allow students to produce professional quality products and to share them with public audiences. Presentation, publications, and portfolios change the classroom culture from turn-it-in, to production for public audiences. Digital tools create opportunities for more and better writing.

8 Sharing Economy

There has been an explosion of **free and open** content and tools. Schools can save money while ensuring equitable access. Common standards and **sharing platforms** have made it possible for millions of educators to share tools and resources across state lines.



9 Relevant & Regularly Updated Content



Regardless of age or content, students have more access to relevant and regularly updated content. Next generation instructional systems that include print and digital options with online adaptive skill building allow teachers and students to personalize in new and exciting ways. The ability to update easily, means access to updated material and features on a regular basis.

10 Next-Gen Learning for Educators

Blended, personalized and competency-based learning is for educators too! As discussed in **Preparing Leaders for Deeper Learning**, preparation and development are increasingly based on a competency map (what educators should know and be able to do), many personalized ways to learn, and multiple opportunities to demonstrate learning.



Want to know more?

Digital Learning is changing the world. It is connecting billions of young people to the idea economy. It is improving working **conditions and career opportunities** for educators. For additional resources and opportunities to engage in conversation around the shift to digital learning,

CLICK HERE!

What does the shift to digital learning look like for you? Tell and show us using **Instagram**, **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

#IMadeTheShift
#ShiftToDigitalEd
Pearson (@PearsonNorthAm)
Getting Smart (@Getting_Smart)