



Every Learner Everywhere Network Releases New Report Confirming Adaptive Courseware Improves Learning Outcomes

Report is third in a series tracking progress at participating institutions

Boulder, CO (March 10, 2022) – An overwhelming majority of faculty using adaptive courseware for the past three years believe it helped them transition to learning online amid the pandemic, and data shows that courseware can help improve learning outcomes for racially minoritized students in gateway courses, according to a new report from Every Learner Everywhere and Digital Promise.

The report, titled [Supporting Student Success at the Course Level: Lessons from Change Efforts during a Pandemic](#), comes three years after Every Learner network partners Digital Promise, Achieving the Dream (ATD) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) began working with a set of two- and four-year institutions – dubbed “Lighthouse” institutions – to support them in implementing adaptive courseware into selected gateway courses.

This report is the third in a series produced by Digital Promise. The first [report](#) shared first-year experiences of participating Lighthouse institutions as they piloted new versions of gateway courses incorporating adaptive learning. A second [report](#) examined pandemic impacts and found that nearly all instructors surveyed believed adaptive courseware helped improve student learning amid the pandemic, while allowing them to better monitor progress and hold individual students accountable for consistent engagement in class.

Key findings presented in the third report include:

- Every Learner engagement with Lighthouse institutions appeared to strengthen the perspective within participating departments that the quality of gateway courses is a mutual responsibility that should be addressed by collaborative teams of instructors, instructional designers, and academic leaders.
- Overall, Lighthouse activities catalyzed and supported by Every Learner appeared to be sufficiently intensive and sustained to increase institutional capacity for using digital learning tools and data analytics to improve the gateway course quality.
- Students in courses implementing adaptive courseware in spring 2020 before and after the shift to remote instruction in response to COVID-19 felt that the transition was less disruptive than in their courses that did not use courseware.
- By fall 2020, when most instructors were on their third or fourth semester of courseware implementation, the gap between course success rates for racially minoritized students compared to non-racially minoritized students in these 41 courses was roughly 10 percent – improved from 14 percent.



- An overwhelming 96 percent of faculty agreed that adaptive courseware improves student learning and that it helps them monitor student progress and hold students accountable; 93 percent agreed that courseware helps them present course material more effectively, and that it increases student engagement, provides students with timely feedback, and helps instructors monitor the progress of the class as a whole.
- The average net promoter score (NPS) doubled among Lighthouse faculty for the adaptive courseware products they were using – rising from +23 in fall 2019 to +46 in fall 2020.

“Every Learner Everywhere’s work with Lighthouse colleges and universities showed how a network can catalyze significant changes in the way introductory courses are designed and implemented,” said contributing author Barbara Means, Ph.D., Executive Director, Learning Sciences Research, Digital Promise. “Essential elements of the work were making course quality a shared responsibility, faculty use of adaptive courseware along with evidence-based teaching practices, and the examination of disaggregated student outcome data as part of a continuous improvement process.”

To download the free resource or learn more about Every Learner Everywhere and its collaborative approach to equitize higher education through digital learning, visit everylearnereverywhere.org. To contact Every Learner Everywhere, email everylearner@wiche.edu, or call (303) 541-0206. Follow Every Learner on Twitter @EveryLearnerNet.

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Every Learner Everywhere is a network of twelve partner organizations with expertise in evaluating, implementing, scaling, and measuring the efficacy of education technologies, curriculum and course design strategies, teaching practices, and support services that personalize instruction for students in blended and online learning environments. Our mission is to help institutions use new technology to innovate teaching and learning, with the ultimate goal of improving learning outcomes for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous students, poverty-affected students, and first-generation students. Our collaborative work aims to advance equity in higher education centers on the transformation of postsecondary teaching and learning. We build capacity in colleges and universities to improve student outcomes with digital learning through direct technical assistance, timely resources and toolkits, and ongoing analysis of institution practices and market trends. For more information about Every Learner Everywhere and its collaborative approach to equitize higher education through digital learning, visit everylearnereverywhere.org.

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.