

Hawai'i Statewide

FAMILY

ENGAGEMENT CENTER



Digitability Hawaii May 15, 2020

Q & A Summary

Q: Is Hawaii Department of Education promoting Financial Literacy among youth with disabilities as an integral part to IDEA transition planning?

- A: HFEC is not able to speak specifically on behalf of HIDOE, however, every student's IEP is unique and addresses the specifics of what the team and family have decided is in the student's interest. Financial Literacy may be a component of that, and it is up to the student and the team to determine who will be responsible for that kind of training (family, school or state agency). Financial Literacy is an essential competency for transition to adult life and the Hawaii Family Engagement Center promotes this as an important training for all youth and adults. The high school at which we are currently piloting the Digitability program works with students on financial literacy based on the student's individual needs.

Q: Is this program in only one school in Hawaii at this time? Is this a pilot?

- A: Yes, HFEC is currently piloting the program at Kapolei High School on Oahu at this time. We are excited about this program, and with our partners at Digitability we will be gathering and evaluating data and the results of the pilot to gain more information regarding the impact on students and families.

Hawaii Statewide Family Engagement Center will share those results with partners at HIDOE to discuss the possibility of expansion to other schools.

Q: Have you been able to contact someone at HIDOE on the state level? They have a person specifically for Transition at the state office.

- A: Thank you for the suggestion. HFEC plans to promote the program with HIDOE. The reason for the pilot is to gather data, information, and lessons learned so we have something to share. We are hoping to demonstrate success. We are sharing information with our partners. In addition, there is a bill being put forward, sponsored by the Jobs Now Partnership project, to produce more equity for children and students with disabilities. We are very excited about using the results to back and promote this legislation.

Q: After a student completes a module, say financial literacy, will it reflect on the DOE certificate? Or have a way to show that to potential employers?

- A: It could be an option that is discussed in the future. It would be good for the students to receive an endorsement that is similar to other types received by students in their academies for various certifications. Digitability partners with employers within their network, national and local, to create work simulations so that students have a work portfolio that can be shared with a potential employer.

Q: How can I get this program at my child's school?

- A: As a start, HFEC suggests speaking with your student's high school Transition Coordinator, Counselor and the Administrator who is assigned as part of your student's IEP team. Raising awareness of the program and sharing information with stakeholders at the school is a great way to start a dialogue and become more familiar with the strategies and successes of Digitability. While it will ultimately be a school-based decision, building a network of advocates for the program may strengthen an opportunity for Administrative support.



About Digitability:

Digitability is an award-winning and nationally recognized transition curriculum and professional development model that partners with schools, community and government organizations, and employers across the United States to provide work-ready training for middle and high school classrooms supporting students with disabilities, as well as adults who have aged out of school. Through Digitability's innovative Transition Curriculum, students with disabilities receive exposure to a variety of employment pathways and develop work-ready portfolios that they can use to pursue paid employment.

Hawai'i Family Webinar Q&A Questions (May 15, 2020):

Does this program have to be done by a teacher at school in the classroom?

Digitability is used in a variety of classroom types. We use Differentiation to meet the very wide range of cognitive, behavioral and communication needs of students. And yes, Digitability is currently used in Fully Self-Contained (FSC) classrooms at Kapolei High School.

Is there a parent/home module?

In addition to thousands of classroom resources, yes, Digitability has a variety of at-home and virtual resources to support learning in conjunction with classroom activities/projects.

Is this program in Hawaii at this time? Is it a pilot? Who does the training to the teacher/parent for this program?

Currently, Digitability is in two Fully Self-Contained (FSC) classrooms at Kapolei High School. In partnership with Digitability, Kapolei High School stakeholders and families, as well as the Hawaii Statewide Family Engagement Center, will evaluate



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program efficacy for advancement throughout additional schools and districts. As far as training, every licensed teacher gets a personal Implementation Coach that helps them throughout their implementation of the program. As a part of that process, we would equip the teacher with the requisite knowledge and resources to educate families about how to extend activities, lessons, and reinforcement at home.

After a student completes a module or specific content, say financial literacy, will it reflect on a certificate? Will the student have a way to show that to potential employers?

Terrific question! And yes, your student will absolutely have a way to demonstrate all of the content knowledge and functional skills they have mastered through Digitability.

All students graduate from the program with a digital portfolio showcasing their contributions to their team and classroom projects. In addition to exhibiting this portfolio at interviews with potential employers, students will be equipped with interviewing skills and will have already practiced the interview process.

Can teachers use this remotely?

Digitability can be used both in the classroom as well as remotely. In fact, Digitability is [currently being used remotely across the country](#). As Digitability is a tech-based program, all resources, including video lessons and supplemental activities, are accessible online using any device with internet access. It is important that while being used remotely, there are still opportunities for learners to be engaged socially to develop expressive and receptive language abilities, especially through the giving/receiving of feedback. Digitability offers a variety of materials and resources for both teachers and families to help facilitate the program in an at-home or virtual learning environment. These resources include our Digitability Virtual Lesson, our Setting Screen Time Boundaries spreadsheet, and others.



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Additionally, Digitability Implementation Coaches support teachers on an ongoing basis, helping them to complete online training, create implementation schedules, determine appropriate levels or differentiated resources to use with students, address any barriers or obstacles being experienced during implementation, and much more.

Who is Digitability for?

Digitability serves students that have [a wide range of needs](#), helping them improve limited social and communication skills, limited eye contact and time-on-task attendance, and other expressive language abilities. With its Differentiation embedded throughout the program, Digitability can benefit students with processing delays, selective mutism, anxiety and even depression. Digitability empowers students with any number of needs with new digital skills to help them find their voice, discover their career interests and self-regulate so that they can obtain and sustain employment.

What grades or age ranges use Digitability?

Digitability is an award-winning and nationally recognized transition curriculum and professional development model that partners with schools, community and government organizations, and employers across the United States to provide work-ready training for middle and high school classrooms supporting students with disabilities, as well as adults who have aged out of school.

Through Digitability's innovative Transition Curriculum, students and adults with disabilities receive exposure to a variety of employment pathways and develop work-ready portfolios that they can use to pursue paid employment. It can also be used to upskill individuals who may currently be employed or even underemployed.



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Will you be offering a discount for use since most programs are having financial difficulties now?

Yes, given the sudden transition to virtual learning environments across the country, Digitability is currently offering both short-term programming due to COVID as well as discounted licenses for the school year. Have your administrator contact info@digitability.com to request more information about short-term licensing due to COVID and discounted school year extensions.

What will my learner get out of Digitability?

With the skills learned through Digitability, students are prepared to [obtain and sustain meaningful employment](#). In addition to learning critical digital literacy skills for workplace success, students develop an understanding of the social nuances of communication, both verbal and digital, that will help make them successful and contributing team members in the workplace.

Digitability students graduate with a Digitability Work-Ready Portfolio. Each student portfolio includes an online profile that will help students explore employment interests and connect with potential employers, allowing them to showcase their Digitability work experience online. Digitability also teaches students how to prepare their talking points about their real-world or simulated work experiences for the interview process.

Are there resources for student IEP Goals and Progress Monitoring?

Digitability understands the challenges facing teachers. We have designed Digitability to streamline many of the existing responsibilities that special education teachers have, including conducting Progress Monitoring, holding IEP meetings with families, writing appropriate Independent Living and Transition Post-Secondary goals, etc.



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Check out some of Digitability's Sample IEP Goals in our [Free IEP Goal Bank](#). The complete [Digitability Curriculum](#) and accompanying Professional Development includes additional goals and assessment materials adapted for a wide range of special education needs.

Is there any way to move around and pick which parts of the curriculum we want to use?

Digitability's program has custom pathways based on school and organization goals, as well as specific student needs. However, we avoid any skill being taught in a silo or an ad hoc fashion. However, a Digitability Implementation Coach will work with teachers and schools on a case by case basis to create targeted pathways for program needs. These structured pathways are necessary to preserve the integrity and efficacy of the program to ensure that skills are generalized for students to successfully obtain and sustain employment.

My learner's school/program is unique. Will Digitability work for them?

Digitability is in classrooms of all types across the country. Our program is designed to be flexible and to fit with what your school's schedule and needs are. Digitability is even taught to students working part-time at off-site employers in post-secondary and/or work-based learning programs. Working with their personal Implementation Coach, Digitability teachers find ways to make the program work for them.

What is the Digitability Social Economy and how does it work?

The [Digitability Social Economy](#) is a token economy system of rewards and reinforcers to teach students appropriate workplace behavior and financial literacy. In the Digitability Social Economy, students earn virtual Digitability dollars when they exhibit behaviors that will make them successful in the workplace and increase their independence. These earnings are then used to pay virtual bills and purchase rewards online. Families can also collaborate with teachers and reinforce financial literacy and workplace behavior learning at home.



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Through the Digitability Social Economy, students learn the basics of financial literacy concepts like earning, spending, and budgeting. Together with Digitability Implementation Coaches, teachers and families can design a personalized Social Economy based on students' needs, interests and goals.

How can parents get involved?

Great question! Digitability offers [ongoing education](#) to keep families informed about the program and how it benefits their students' skill development, independence, and, ultimately, their employment. We also offer ways to help teachers and families collaborate throughout the school year in order to address the wide-range of needs learners in any classroom may have.

Can I buy Digitability as a parent?

While families cannot currently buy their own licenses directly, they can reach out to their teachers, administrators, or district leaders to inquire about bringing Digitability to their student's school. Once being implemented in the classroom, Digitability has a multitude of at-home features that can be done in tandem with plans and activities from the classroom. We have many parents that collaborate with their teachers to ensure student growth by providing consistent reinforcement, both in the classroom and at home.

My school is not currently using Digitability. How can I share more information?

We would love the opportunity to speak with your school/district leaders to discuss bringing Digitability to your community. Educators and Administrators can visit digitability.com to complete a demo request form to receive more information.



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