

Digitability™

Preparing students with
cognitive disabilities for our
tech-driven workplace.

digitability.com





Digitability is the only scalable, STEM-focused model that continues to be recognized as an innovative solution to the unemployment crisis facing a large – and growing – population of those with disabilities. **Whereas less than 30% of people with disabilities are employed, 70% of Digitability graduates obtain full-time employment.**



Something for EVERY Student: The needs of individuals who participate in Digitability run the gamut. All of your resources are extensively differentiated to support a wide range of cognitive, communication and behavioral needs.



Reduce Time Planning & Progress Monitoring: Digitability manages your existing special education priorities into a streamlined process. We have all the tools to enhance existing programming or serve as a foundation for innovative programming at any school or in any classroom.

Program Resources Include:

- ✓ **700+** Digital Literacy Lesson Plans
- ✓ **200+** Social, Communication & Behavior Resources
- ✓ **600+** Workplace Readiness Activities
- ✓ **100+** Functional Academic Resources
- ✓ **900+** Interactive Online Activities
- ✓ IEP Goal Bank and Progress Reports
- ✓ Data Dashboard to Track IEP Transition Data
- ✓ Year-long, teacher coaching on Evidence-based Practices

Earn Amazon Gift Cards! Our teacher coaching and professional development services reward each teacher with Amazon Gift cards throughout their process of achieving mastery of evidence-based practices and improving transition outcomes for students.



JOBS

Students Obtain Full-Time Employment: Each student graduates with a work-ready, skills-based portfolio and the social/emotional ability to persevere, self-regulate and self-advocate in learning environments that simulate “real-world” workplace settings. Digitability’s program for today’s modern workplaces has been featured on **MSNBC, CNET, NPR, TechCrunch, Ted Talks**, and showcased at **Silicon Valley's Social Innovation Summit**.

For more information visit digitability.com or contact: info@digitability.com



Curriculum Categories



- Sharing & Connecting Online
- Using Online Accounts
- Workplace Technology



- Flexible Thinking/Problem Solving
- Active Listening
- Interpreting Directions



- Expressive/Receptive Language
- Workplace Communication
- Giving, Receiving, & Interpreting Feedback



- Self-regulation
- Self-advocacy
- Time-on-task Attendance



- Reading
- Writing
- Financial Literacy (Earning, Spending, & Saving)



- Interviewing
- Real-World Employment Projects
- Work-Ready Resume & Portfolio

Identify Interest

Employment Experience

Getting Hired to Work

Performance Reviews

Portfolio + Interview

Work-Ready!



Start Here

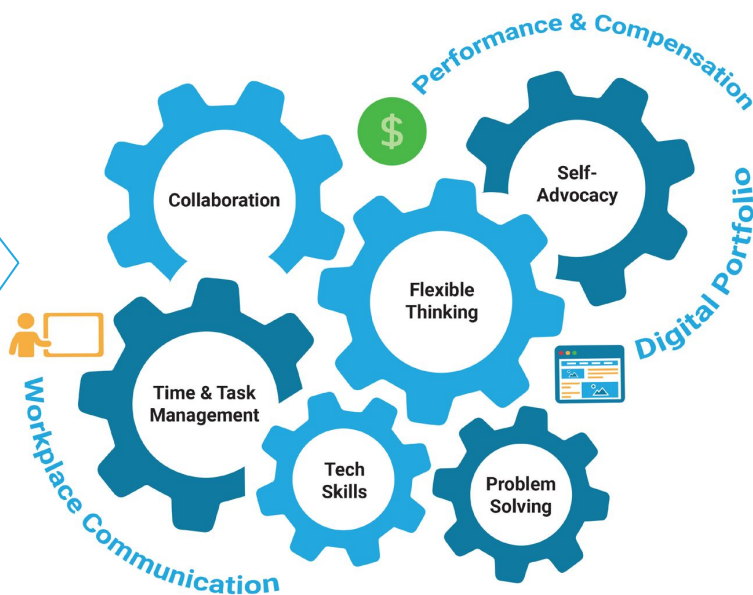
Students begin by choosing an employment project in Digitability's Work Simulation Library and apply for the job they are interested in.



Apply for a Job

Project Samples

- Coffee Shop
- YouTube Marketing
- A13 2Bc Data Entry
- Website Creation
- Choose Your Own



- ✓ Resume via Digitability Workplace Partner Projects
- ✓ Digital Project to Showcase to Employers
- ✓ Interview Talking Points from Digitability Work Experience
- ✓ Self-Advocacy Plan



SCAN HERE

Product Features

Lesson Plan Resources

- Video Lesson Library
- Lesson Plans
- Differentiated Assessments and Activities
- Google Drive Templates (Docs, Sheets, Slides and more!)

IEP Process, Data, and Reporting

- Student Progress Monitoring
- IEP Goal Bank
- Weekly Emailed Student Updates
- Data Dashboard

Teacher Support

- 1:1 Year-Long Coaching
- Evidence-Based Practices Training
- Reward Program



The First Virtual Banking System for Special Education Students

Bankability allows students to experience a modern banking app while learning financial literacy and workplace behavior.

Earn Virtual Money

Earnings	
Gross Pay	\$105.00
Deductions	
- Behaviors	-\$12.00
- Federal Income tax (15%)	-\$15.75
- State Income Tax (5%)	-\$5.25
Net Pay	\$72.00

Students earn a classroom currency for behavior and receive direct deposits into their checking account each payday.

Pay Bills & Purchase Rewards

Date	Description	Category	Amount
11/1/23	Digitability Pay	Income	\$72
11/4/23	Rent	Bill	-\$10
11/6/23	Extra Snack	Reward	-\$2
11/6/23	WiFi	Bill	-\$5
11/6/23	Youtube Time	Reward	-\$5

Students manage their checking and savings accounts, pay bills, shop, and review their finances all from their online bank account.

Budgeting Tools

Set a Budget	
Income	\$180 of \$200
Purchase	\$15 of \$50
Bills	\$50 of \$100
Fees	\$15 of \$30

Budgeting tools allow students to practice financial decision-making, budgeting, and record-keeping in a controlled environment.

Track Progress



Logged behavior dollars help teachers track behavior overtime. Reports can be generated and shared at the click of a button.

Customize

Rewards for Purchase	
reward type	amount
YouTube Time	10
Movie Day	10
Preferred Activity	5
Classroom Bills	
bill type	amount
Rent	20
Electric Bill	10

Teachers can customize classroom bills and rewards, run payroll, and approve purchase requests all from their Bankability dashboard.

Behavior Support



Designed by experts, Bankability develops self-regulation strategies and replacement behaviors with comprehensive lesson plans included.

Visit www.digitability.com/bankability to learn more about bringing Bankability to your organization today.



A Word From Administrators



Digitability
Be Work Ready!



Dr. David Mandell, Sc.D.

Director, Center for Mental Health Policy and Services, University of Pennsylvania | Pennsylvania

"Digitability gives schools an opportunity to provide support to high school students with autism in a way they wouldn't be able to otherwise."



Dana Steinwart

Lead Transition Teacher, Blue Valley School District | Kansas

"What I enjoy most about Digitability is the class participation I get due to the classroom economy system. Earning dollars is highly motivating, and I have 100% class participation. Every student is engaged in the lesson. I have also seen quick behavior changes when students pay dollars for behaviors. I love teaching Digitability."



Dawn Nuoffer

Executive Director, Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin | Wisconsin

"We have seen great success with Digitability. In the short time we have been offering this course, we have opened multiple class locations and will continue to replicate it across Wisconsin. Digitability is changing lives and helping our friends to secure meaningful jobs!"



Tracey Sterling

Supervisor of Special Education, Perkiomen Valley School District | Pennsylvania

"We brought Digitability to Perkiomen Valley School District because of the scope and relevance of its unique digital content. The training was differentiated and tailored to each of our students' needs through evidence-based practices."



Digitability teaches work-ready skills for our technology driven and highly social workplace.

Skills Mastered Include:

- ✓ Technological Literacy & Online Safety
- ✓ Time and Task Management
- ✓ Workplace Communication & Socialization
- ✓ Resume, Interviewing and Skill-Based Portfolio Development
- ✓ Problem Solving & Flexible Thinking
- ✓ Financial literacy
- ✓ Self-regulation for Problematic Behaviors
- ✓ Self-advocacy in the Workplace



High school special education students standing outside of independence Hall, Philadelphia

"As we lead our students into a tech-driven future, Digitability moves students closer to their career and life goals."

-Jane Cordero, Secondary Special Education Coordinator at Hill-Freedman World Academy.

[Learn more at digitability.com](http://digitability.com)

Three Solutions in One!



Digitability develops social and emotional capacity while shaping work-ready skills.



**Real-world work simulations
for generalization**



**Comprehensive Transition
Curriculum and IEP Goal Bank**



**Differentiates for cognitive
and behavioral needs**



**Progress monitoring in
one-click!**



**Capacity building for
students *and* teachers**



**Social and emotional
development**

Students have complex learning and behavior needs. The path to preparing students for today's modern workplace involves many moving parts.



- ✔ Digitability's curriculum prepares students with a work-ready portfolio, and the social/emotional capacity to persevere; this is helping people with neurodiverse needs overcome barriers to obtaining employment.
- ✔ Digitability's data and reporting tools measure student efficacy and facilitator fidelity through SMART goals and objectives. We offer real time usage data, data dashboard, weekly emails on efficacy/fidelity, and progress reports.
- ✔ Digitability works hard to make all teachers feel comfortable with technology and evidence based practices. Understanding the needs of teachers and their support staff, Digitability provides personalized support and training to all teachers and support staff.



When skills are taught in isolation, skill transfer doesn't happen. Digitability's one-of-a-kind curriculum teaches skills through real-world simulations using the best evidence-based practices.



- ✓ Financial Literacy
- ✓ Resume, Portfolio, & Interviewing
- ✓ Technological Literacy & Online Safety
- ✓ Workplace Communication & Socialization
- ✓ Self-regulation for Behavior
- ✓ Self-advocacy in the Workplace
- ✓ Time & Task Management Problem Solving
- ✓ Flexible Thinking

4 Levels of Digitability's Award Winning Work-Ready Training



Digitability
Be Work Ready!

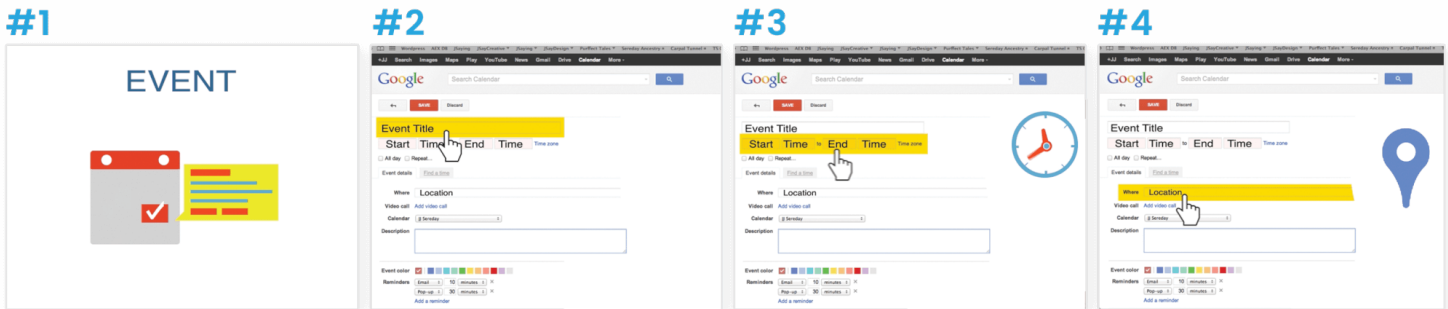
Today, more than **70%** of people with cognitive disabilities are unemployed. Digitability's awardwinning, innovative approach is changing this statistic. Nearly **70%** of our first cohort of graduates obtained meaningful employment.

 LEVEL 1: INTERNET NAVIGATOR	 LEVEL 2: THE DIGITAL CITIZEN	 LEVEL 3: TECH-SAVY AMBASSADOR	 LEVEL 4: PRIME PROFESSIONAL
 Internet Basics  Browser  Search  Online Accounts  Sharing Online  Connecting Online  Popular Internet Icons  Online Safety  Expressive and Receptive Language	 Gmail  Google Drive Cloud Storage  Google Calendar  Google Contacts  Spam  Workplace Communication  Time and Task Management  File Organization	 Google Docs  Google Sheets  Google Slides  Google Forms  Collaboration in the Cloud  Project Management  Presentation Skills  Data Entry	 LinkedIn  Google Sites  Personal Brand  Bio  Resume  Online Portfolio  Networking  Endorsements  Interviewing Skills
LEVEL 1: SOCIAL ECONOMY WORKPLACE CULTURE	LEVEL 2: SOCIAL ECONOMY WORKPLACE BOUNDARIES	LEVEL 3: SOCIAL ECONOMY WORKPLACE POLICIES	LEVEL 4: SOCIAL ECONOMY WORKPLACE ADVOCACY
 Earning and Spending  Motivation  Socialization	 Personal Budgeting  Executive Functions  Self-regulation	 Performance Review  Empowerment  Self-Efficacy	 Long-term Planning  Perseverance  Self-Advocacy Plan

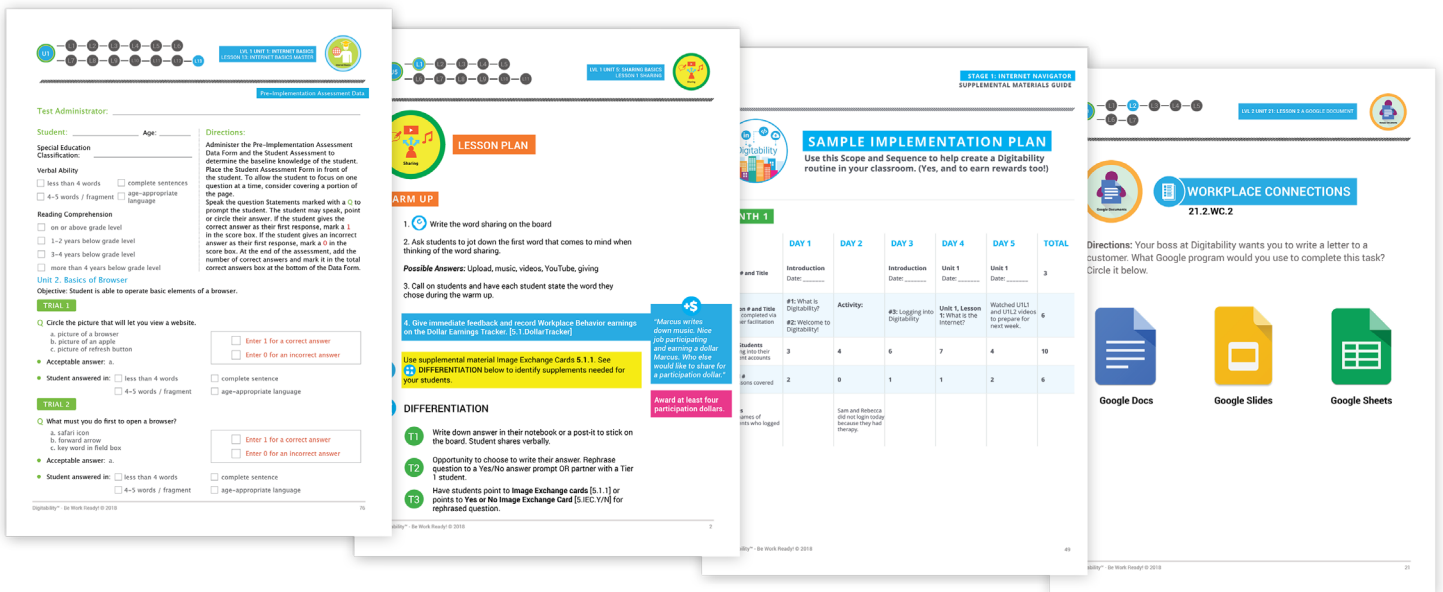
Digitability™ Video & Lesson Plan Curriculum



The Digitability work-ready training program includes an easy-to-use web based software that provides teachers with a library of hundreds of video lessons. Each video is designed using the best, evidence-based practices such as principles of Applied Behavior Analysis.



Each online video is facilitated via off-line curriculum resources including lesson plans, social games, differentiated supplements, work-simulations, and resources for IEPs and transition planning.



Work-Ready Process At-A-Glance



1



Whole-Group Facilitation

Facilitators engage students with workplace skills training. Facilitators develop the language for technology and understand today's workplace communication.

2



Developing Social Capacity for the Workplace

Through the evidence-based practices, students develop their communication skills and financial literacy. Students are empowered to self-advocacy in the workplace.

3



Work Simulations

Every student has a role to play and develops workplace routines using tech. Students problem solve while working together to accomplish tasks.

4



Independent Practices

Through independent practice using the online system, student comprehension of each measurable objective is assessed.

5



Review Data and Monitoring Progress

Data dashboards and progress monitoring tools identify areas of growth. Data reports can be shared with family, therapists, or other educational team members.

6



Skills-based Portfolio

Students develop a skill-based portfolio, online resume and interviewing skills to showcase their abilities to employers.

Digitability's Classroom Social Economy



Digitability's Classroom Social Economy is a behavior system that uses boundaries and reinforcers to prepare students for today's workplaces. Students develop workplace social and communication skills based on their current language and behavior needs.

LEVEL 1: SOCIAL ECONOMY	LEVEL 2: SOCIAL ECONOMY	LEVEL 3: SOCIAL ECONOMY	LEVEL 4: SOCIAL ECONOMY
WORKPLACE CULTURE	WORKPLACE BOUNDARIES	WORKPLACE POLICIES	WORKPLACE ADVOCACY
Earning and Spending Motivation Socialization	Personal Budgeting Executive Functions Self-regulation	Performance Review Empowerment Self-Efficacy	Long-term Planning Perseverance Self-Advocacy Plan

What do social skills look like in the workplace?



Following Directions/
Collaboration



Adapting/Shift
Flexibility



Giving/Receiving
Feedback



Problem Solving

How does the social economy empower students?



Students access tech, to create media for their ideas and completed workplace tasks.



They build confidence and self-efficacy by presenting their work along with interpreting questions and feedback.



Students practice and internalize the ability to self-advocate and interview.

“Digitability has something for every single one of my students.”

-Dawn Geiger, special Education Teacher in Philadelphia, PA.



Everyone has a role to play with Differentiation.

Individuals who participate in the Digitability program run the gamut; therefore, to create an inclusive learning environment, all of our resources are extensively differentiated to support a wide range of learning and behavior profiles from adolescence into adulthood. As students progress through the work-ready process and develop their skill-based portfolio, materials are adapted to meet the needs of students at their current levels.

Behavior and Cognitive Characteristics of Students Served

- ✓ Expressive and Receptive Language Needs
- ✓ Impairments in Social Reciprocity
- ✓ Low Self-Esteem/Confidence
- ✓ Limited Verbal Ability
- ✓ Intellectual Disability (low IQ)
- ✓ Auditory Processing
- ✓ Attention, Memory, Organization Issues
- ✓ Sensory Processing Issues
- ✓ Difficulty Processing Emotions
- ✓ Anxiety and Impulsive Behavior
- ✓ English Language Learning Needs

Digitability understands that ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL



Digitability
Be Work Ready!

You're busy. Let us help.

As a company founded by a teacher, Digitability understands that special educators are tasks with many responsibilities. All resources are differentiated 3 ways to ensure that students can access, comment and develop new skills based on their personal needs. Each resource is created for a specific tier. The indicator for each tier is attached to the title in a green bubble. This bubble tells you quickly what tier this supplemental is for. (Keep in mind some tiers will share supplementals)

Example



1. Distribute **WB.1.3 Think, Pair, Share Worksheets** See **DIFFERENTIATION** for this activity to identify supplements needed for your students.



DIFFERENTIATION

T1

Using **Tier 1 Self-Inventory Exit Ticket**, students will brainstorm their own ideas on personal behavior in the workplace.

T2

Using **Tier 2 Self-Inventory Exit Ticket**, students will use a checklist and sentence starters to evaluate their personal behavior.

T3

Using **Tier 3 Self-Inventory Exit Ticket**, students will use a checklist and/or modified questions with their Yes/NO Image Exchange Cards. Alternatively, students may use Trace and Learn Exit Ticket.

T1 SELF-INVENTORY
EXIT TICKET | WB.1.3.1

Directions: Write a paragraph describing the behaviors you have that will make you successful in the workplace.

Directions: Write a paragraph describing the behaviors you have that can be problematic in the workplace.

T2 SELF-INVENTORY
EXIT TICKET | WB.1.3.2

Directions: Complete the sentence starter to evaluate behaviors you need work on.

I have _____ behaviors that will help me be successful in the workplace.

These behaviors are _____. I can use _____

these behaviors in the workplace by _____

I have _____ behavior(s) that may be problematic in the workplace. Examples of these behaviors are _____. One _____ behavior I will work on is _____

T3 TRACE 'N' LEARN
EXIT TICKET | WB.1.3.3

Successful Workplace Behavior

Sharing, helping, encouraging, following directions, staying on task, greeting a guest

Efficacy and Fidelity Data



Digitability developed easy-to-use tools to help make progress monitoring and data collection easier.

Digitability is a company driven by scaling measurable progress for people with neuro-diverse needs. We understand how important data is to informing instruction. That's why Digitability developed easy-to-use data and reporting tools to help make progress monitoring easier.



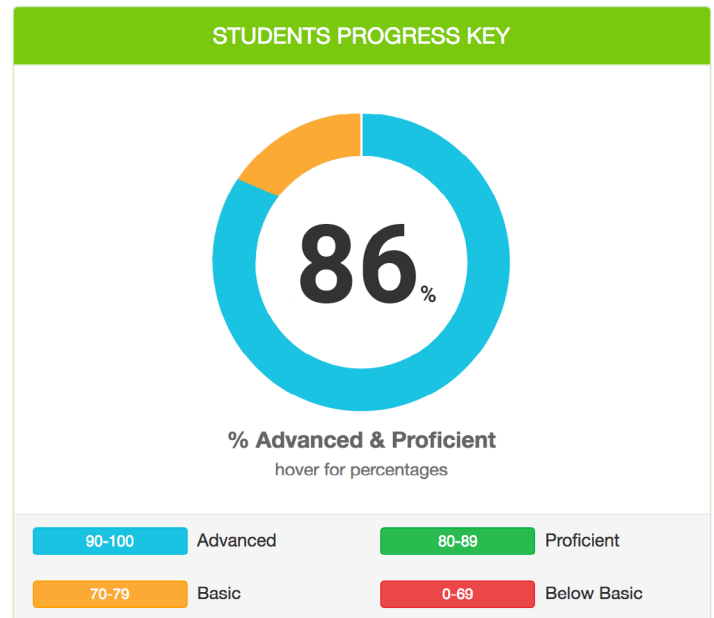
- ✓ Real time usage data
- ✓ Data dashboard
- ✓ Weekly emails on efficacy and fidelity
- ✓ Progress reports

Everything You Need to Track Progress



Teachers, supervisors and administrators can easily track student progress and performance through our monitoring tool. You can generate a report with the click of a button and Digitability will automatically email reports on student efficacy and fidelity.

Digitability's curriculum is backed by the best, evidence-based practices such as Applied Behavior Analysis. Our specialist work with your educators to support data-driven instruction to increase outcomes throughout your entire organization.



The screenshot shows a Google Mail interface. The left sidebar has a "Mail" dropdown menu with options: "Compose", "Inbox (2)", "Starred", "Important", and "Sent Mail". The main content area displays an email from "Digitability" to "Kristopher Jones" dated "Jun 5 (3 days ago)". The email subject is "Digitability Facilitator Report for Digitability V1 : Randall 06/05/2018". The email body contains the following text:

Hi Kristopher Jones

"You're killin' it this month! You are completing 6+ lessons per week with your class or engaging your students 3+ days/week. Your administrator will see that you've earned Level 1 Status...like a boss. :)"

You're currently ranked #1 at North High School. To see how your ranking data compares to your organization wide data, sign in and view your MY PD tab.

Here is a list of your current students and the number of lessons completed this last week:

Student	Lessons completed
Daniel	3
Michele	2
Jordan	23
Krystal	2
David	0
Gaby	1
Margaret	53
Jamir	2
Devon	0

Keep up the great work!

The Digitability Team

At the bottom of the email, there is a small copyright notice: "© 2018 Digitability.com. All rights reserved."

Digitability gives special education teachers and support staff their own personal special education coach.

Digitability fidelity and data features inform the support and coaching teachers need to implement evidence-based practices. This personalized professional development supports student outcomes in special education.



- ✓ On-boarding
- ✓ On-going coaching
- ✓ On-site and live virtual training
- ✓ On-demand access to training
- ✓ Tech support
- ✓ Data analysis
- ✓ Weekly reports
- ✓ On-demand access to training

Teacher Professional Development Within Digitability



We use baseline training data to create personalized professional development goals based on teacher experience and understanding of evidence based practices.

Customized Professional Development Goal Planning					
≤ 1 Month	≤2-3 months	≤ 3-4 months	≤ 4-6 months	≤ 6-8 months	≤ 8-10 months
Milestone #1: On-boarding	Milestone #2: Evidence-based Basics	Milestone #3: Evidence-based Basics (cont.)	Milestone #4: Work Simulation	Milestone #5: Workplace Behavior	Milestone #6: Executive Functions
Understanding Curriculum	Immediate Feedback	Increasing Student Attendance to Task	Peer Review/ Constructive Criticism	Self- Regulation	Flexibility to Shift
Digitability Platform & Accounts	Differentiation	5 Types of Prompting	Task Analysis (TA)	Scripting (Sc) & Social Narratives (Sn)	Fading Prompts
Digitability's Classroom Social Economy	Positive-Reinforcement	Expressive vs Receptive Languages	Supporting Peer-mediated instruction and intervention		Self-management

Teachers receive world-class support from Digitability's Implementation Coaches



On-Demand Library



Virtual Development



In-Person Workshops

Award-winning Work-ready Support Services Include:



At Digitability, we understand that you can not impact student efficacy without teacher fidelity using evidence-based practices. Our model of coaching and professional development is designed to prevent students from regressing or staying at the same level throughout their education.

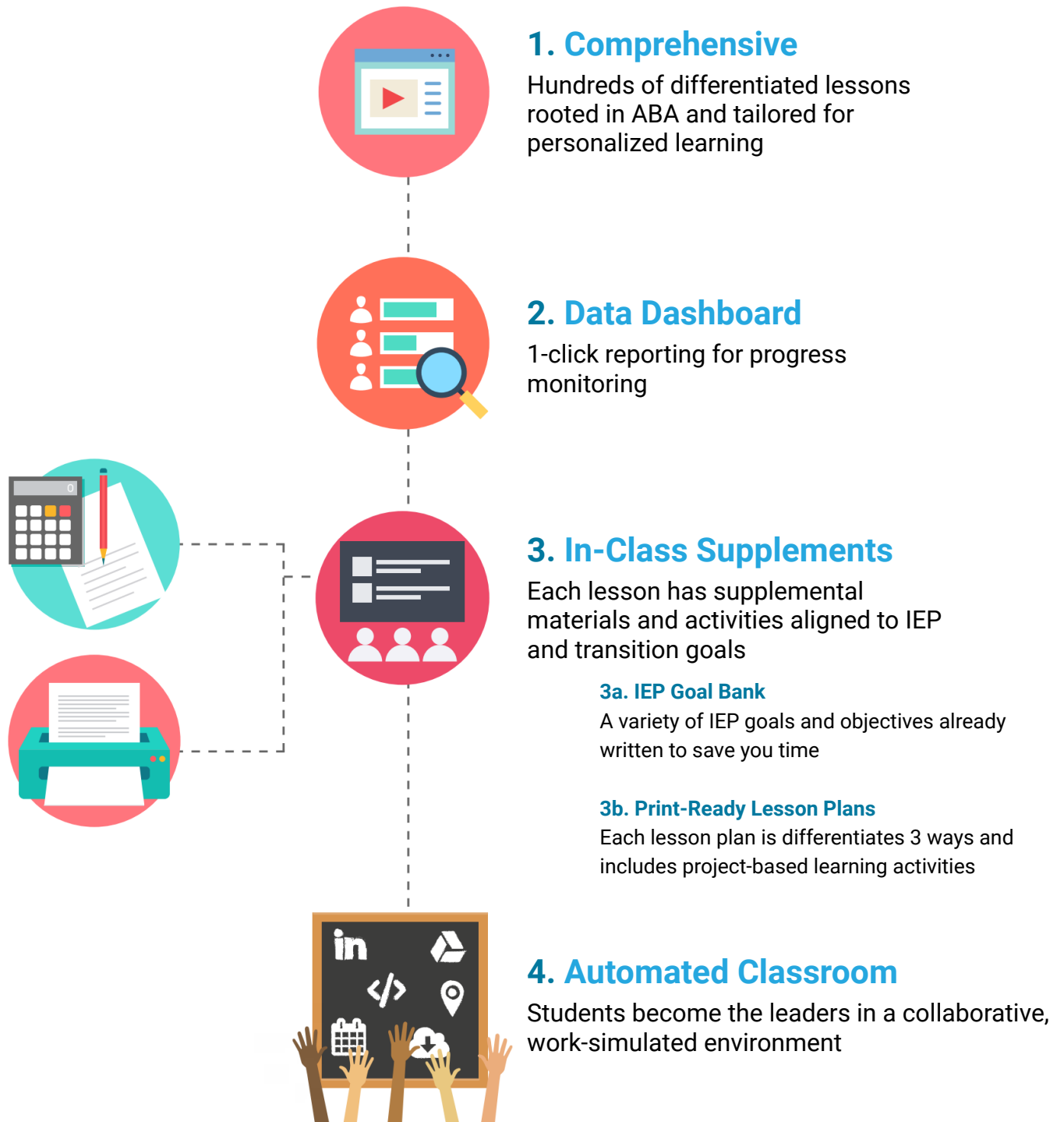
Teachers receive:

- ✓ On-boarding training and continued support
- ✓ Implementation Coordination (making it easy to use with existing demands)
- ✓ Technology integration coaching
- ✓ Social and Emotional Development Training
- ✓ Professional Development on Evidence-based Practices
- ✓ Technical support
- ✓ Data review and analysis to support student mastery
- ✓ Progress monitoring tools
- ✓ Weekly reports.
- ✓ Lesson Planning Support for all Domains Taught
- ✓ Custom Work-ready Resource Consulting (to help integrate existing programs)

Administrators receive:

- ✓ Weekly and monthly reports on efficacy and fidelity
- ✓ Account Management Support
- ✓ Data dashboard
- ✓ Data Reports and Consulting for Admin (managing spec ed made easy)
- ✓ Communication tools
- ✓ Intervention and support summaries
- ✓ Tools for teacher observations and professional development

Digitability makes managing special education easy.



Digitability makes managing special education easy.



1. IDEA Compliance

Digitability is a comprehensive transition program rooted in Applied Analysis (ABA)



2. Data Dashboard

Get data reporting and analytics

3a. Educator Fidelity

Real-time feedback on facilitator usage and progress

3b. Student Mastery

1-click reporting for progress monitoring



3. PD and Training

Empower teachers of all ages to use technology and project-based learning



4. Ongoing Support

Every teacher and admin had a support specialist ready to answer and assist

3a. Educator Implementation

Digitability comes with on-site training and implementation strategies

3b. Custom Solutions

Data-driven response to intervention tools for admins and supervisors



5. Cloud-Based Platform

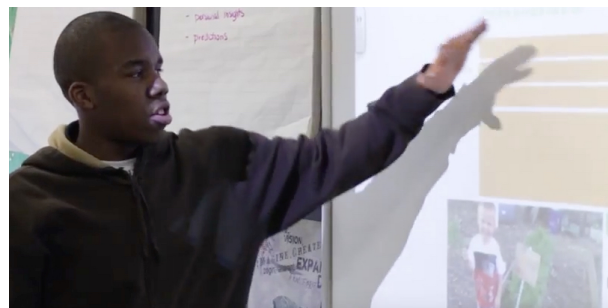
No IT-support needed to bring Digitability into your organization

Meet Digitability Graduates



DeShaun

DeShaun came into the Digitability program with ageinappropriate behavior. He used baby talk and referenced children's stories off-topic. Deshaun had limited social skills, eye contact, and expressive language, as well as significant processing delays. Digitability prepared DeShaun with a workready portfolio, along with the social and emotional development Deshaun needed to obtain employment. Today, Deshaun is working full-time in a human resources office and was recently honored as a valued contributor to his workplace.



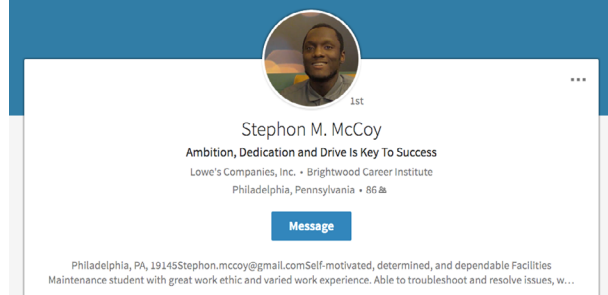
Stephon

Stephon came into the Digitability program with low selfesteem. He was a person with selective mutism, who experienced anxiety and depression. As a student with dysgraphia, Stephon had low interest in writing. Digitability empowered Stephon with new digital skills to help him find his voice, discover his career interest and self-regulate so he could obtain and sustain employment. Stephon found employment during his senior year of high school and continued on to an electrician training program. He is now training others to develop the skills he has mastered.



Marcus

Marcus came into the Digitability program with significant speech and language issues and an intellectual disability. He experienced a stutter, which made him self-conscious. Marcus was hyper-focused on topics, such as mammals, and had vast knowledge about the characteristics of mammals. Through Digitability, Marcus created a webpage, organizing his knowledge of mammals in a hierarchy. Digitability provided a framework for Marcus to develop his speech and language abilities, as well as build his confidence. Digitability also connected Marcus's interest in mammals to the local zoo to explore internship opportunities and employment. Marcus presented his website with confidence to a panel of eight judges during his senior program. Marcus is now employed, confident, and enjoying his social relationships with others.



Meet a Digitability Graduate

This is DeShaun, a Digitability graduate who is now working in a human resources office. DeShaun travels to work independently and on his days off, takes the bus to the city's center for lunch and to visit his favorite museums.



Where Deshaun's Journey Began

DeShaun began his transition to adolescence as he entered his 9th grade autistic support classroom. At this time, DeShaun exhibited age inappropriate behaviors. He often used baby talk and told his class about fairy tale princesses. While he watched animated children shows using online applications like YouTube, he didn't use the computer to connect with others, learn about new topics, or perform independent living tasks.

Digitability shapes interest into marketable skills and simultaneously develops social and emotional capacity

Through Digitability, DeShaun learned the basics of using tech. First, Deshaun mastered the ability to use a search engine like Google to perform research on Cleopatra (an age-appropriate parallel to DeShaun's interest) and the history of Egypt. Incrementally, Digitability helped DeShaun build on those foundational skills. DeShaun began organizing presentations using his content knowledge, and a variety of media assets he found online through image and video searches. [Digitability's online learning platform](#) made Google Drive's Cloud Applications, like Google Slides accessible to DeShaun so he could master the ability to create online presentations.



Measuring Mastery Through Digitability's Data and Reporting Features

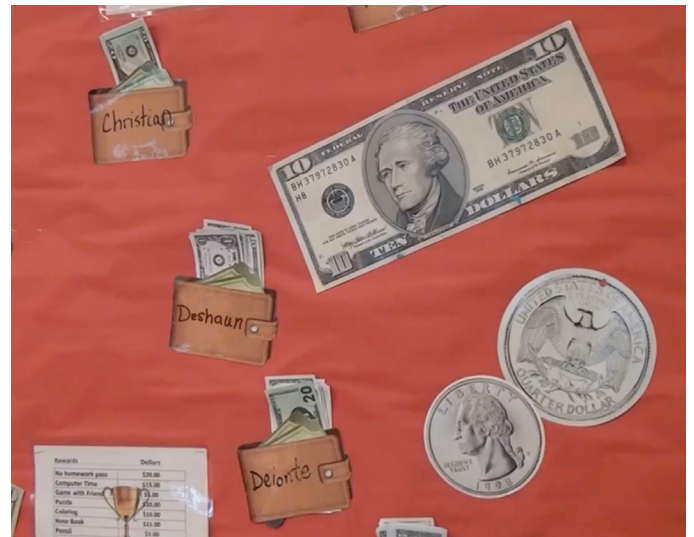
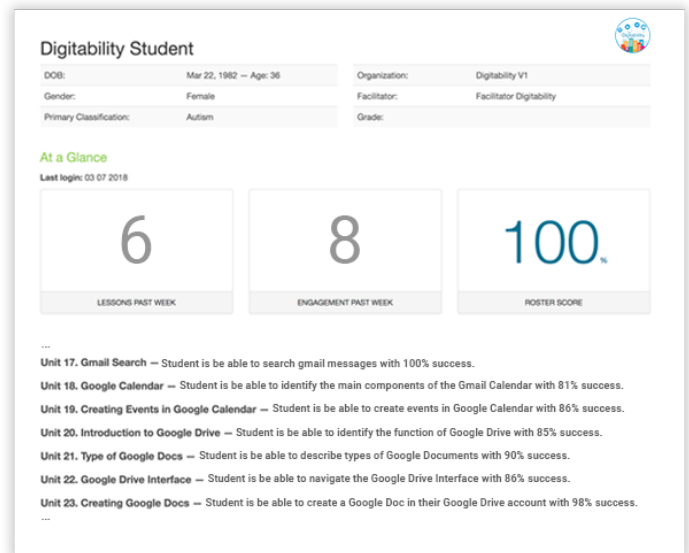
Digitability's Data and Reporting features were able to demonstrate this skill mastery through measurable goals and objectives. With Digitability's online platform, DeShaun's teacher was able to generate a progress report with a click of a button. This report and additional tools made it possible for DeShaun's family to receive emails on his progress.

Digitability Classroom Economy Helped Deshaun Develop Appropriate Workplace Behavior

Digitability's Classroom Economy is a behavior system that uses boundaries and reinforcers to teacher workplace behavior to students. Digitability's Classroom Economy is what helped DeShaun shift his interest into age appropriate topics and then increase his focus on using tech to develop life skills. In addition to having the tools needed to independently navigate and utilize the internet, Digitability also taught safety concepts such as public vs private information, spam, as well as topics that can be more nuanced such as appropriate online (and offline) comments.

As DeShaun began making progress in developing his social and communication skills through Digitability, he practiced using age-appropriate language during his Google Slide presentations about Cleopatra.

As each student in DeShaun's class mastered new tech and social skills, they would continue to move through the Digitability work-ready training program. Next steps included students collaborating to complete a *Digitability Work-simulation*.



The Work-Simulation: Streamlining Community, Tech, Communication and Problem Solving Skills

DeShaun's school had a community garden, where the produce grown was sold to residents in neighborhoods identified as food desserts. Using Digitability's Planning a Website Simulation, DeShaun's *special education classroom* would design a website to engage the community, and to provide important information like inventory, pricing and garden market hours and location.

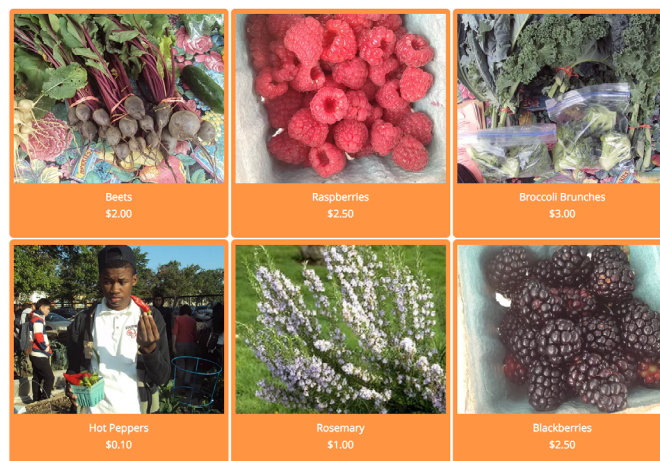
One of DeShaun's roles was to create a webpage that showcased what produce would be sold and how much each item would cost. DeShaun used Google Sheets to create an inventory list and included hyperlinks to each item's photo, which were all organized in Google Drive.

Digitability also taught DeShaun how to collaborate in the cloud with his peers. Now he could share the resources he created with his teammate who was responsible for creating the recipe blog.

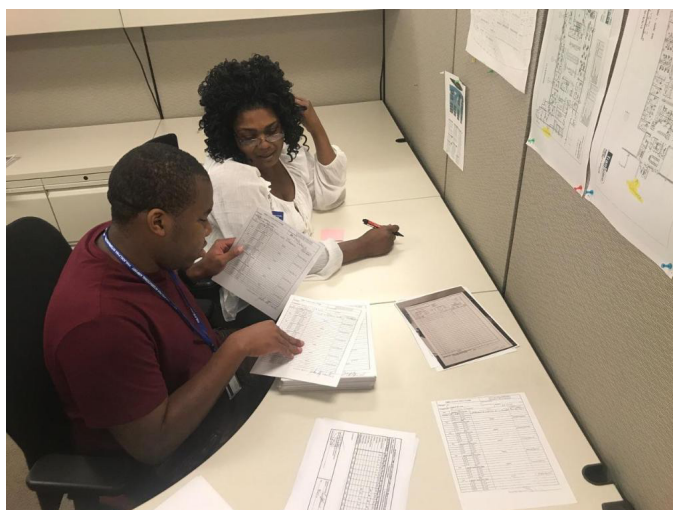
Digitability provided the structure for DeShaun to get comfortable receiving feedback and interviewing.

In Digitability's Planning a Website Work-Simulation, DeShaun would present his work at Demo Day. During his presentation, Deshaun discussed collaboration with his group, and how he managed his time and tasks independently to meet deadlines given. He would discuss his process, problems he encountered, how he solved those problems and what he will do differently next time.

DeShaun listened to the feedback he received from his teammates and his 'executive team'



Content and Image Files for South Philly High School Gardens Website		
Item	Price	Google Drive Image File
Beets	\$2.00 per bunch	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Z4Xa4dju6lInTD1M0cKm5Y2diSvYDT
Raspberries	\$2.50 per box	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1C1ds8nyW3lnOHT9w_SQwpLJV5yrWIVy
Broccoli	\$3.00 per bunch	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1HxQ3ixTIEFPJ0x1e1YPhofwDcJ7Qb
Hot Peppers	\$0.10 per pepper	https://drive.google.com/open?id=116UQpWJRZb7HYeNSqPeBuijVAELuKGA2
Rosemary	\$1.00 per bunch	https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qdznrR3zVb5hUSN6rhaN8y1qmRbTEbu
Blackberries	\$2.50 per box	



(any teacher or administrator in the classroom). He then interpreted that feedback to plan his next steps with the phrase, "What I hear you saying is..."

Upon completion of Digitability Work-simulations, students prepare their resumes and practice interviewing for a different job in the 'Digitability company.' Digitability taught DeShaun how to showcase his work-ready skills, while developing his social and communication abilities for the workplace.

This experience helped prepare DeShaun with what he needed to become employed.

Working in an Office

Today, DeShaun is working in an HR office, where he manages data and communications. Deshaun was recently named Employee of the Month and is now receiving training to upskill his position.

Digitability is dedicated to changing the current paradigm of pigeonholing people with disabilities into unemployment. While more than 70% of people with neurodiverse needs are unemployed, DeShaun is a part of Digitability's first graduating class, which is a group where nearly 70% of students obtained employment.

Digitability has an expansive library of hundreds of *differentiated lesson plans* and work simulations like the one DeShaun participated in.

Educator or Administrator? You can get a free demo of Digitability here: <http://digitability.com/demo/>



Learn more about Digitability's award-winning, work-ready training or watch a video on Deshaun's experience at: digitability.com/education



How tech means jobs ahead for kids with cognitive disabilities

Individuals with intellectual disabilities have it particularly rough when it comes to getting hired. Here's how some are addressing the problem.

By Marguerite Reardon

As a special education teacher at a public high school in Philadelphia, Michele McKeone prepared students with autism for life after graduation. But she quickly discovered a glaring hole in the curriculum: a complete lack of digital literacy.

When the US Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that more than half of all jobs require some degree of technology skills, that's a problem. McKeone feared her students were destined for menial, low-wage positions, if they could get any jobs at all.

McKeone saw an opportunity to use technology and project-based learning as a way to teach important technical skills, as well as foster the ability to think critically, solve problems and live independently.

She quit her job last year to focus on her startup, Digitability, developer of an online curriculum that teaches those technical skills. Initially, it was called Autism Expressed, but she changed the name after expanding the program to kids with other cognitive disabilities. Her program, which has won several technology contests, is being used throughout the Philadelphia School District, where she used to work, and in schools in several other states, including in New Jersey and California.

“

There are roles that people with intellectual disability can fill in many businesses, if they have the right training and support. I'm trying to raise the bar to make sure everyone is taught these important skills.

”

Her program is just one way individuals and companies are working to give people with cognitive disabilities a better shot at succeeding in the workplace with higher-skill jobs. Efforts range from promoting more technology education to companies and employers expanding how they look for talent. They help to dispel the misperception that individuals with intellectual disabilities aren't suited to be in tech.

These initiatives address a real problem. The unemployment rate for all people with disabilities is nearly twice the rate of people without disabilities, according to the US Labor Department. People with cognitive or developmental differences, such as autism or Down syndrome, are even worse off.

“Most of us want a meaningful job, and people with intellectual disabilities are no different,” said Gary Siperstein, director of the Center for Social Development and Education at the University of Massachusetts Boston. “But in spite of tens of millions of dollars spent on programs for better outcomes for people with intellectual disabilities, the needle hasn't moved much.”

There's reason to be optimistic. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 requires schools and state vocational rehabilitation agencies to provide transition services to students with disabilities to help them find “meaningful work.” Agencies must allocate at least 15 percent of their federal funding toward such transition efforts. This push from the



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feds could help spur more schools to think about including digital and computer skills in their curriculum and transition plans for students with disabilities.

Getting tech in their hands

McKeone is both a pioneer and an evangelist when it comes to getting technology in the hands of children with cognitive disabilities. While schools often see the value of providing technology as a way to assist students with disabilities, it's been a harder sell convincing them that people with cognitive impairments should learn skills like web page development and coding.

Even learning how to use the most basic online apps can have a huge impact on people with cognitive differences. For instance, Google Calendar is the mobile equivalent of the wall calendar that many students in special education use to stay on task.

Digital media lets many students showcase their skills in a way that may not be apparent in traditional assessments.

"I just wanted to teach them everything I learned in art school," McKeone said. "We live in this world where everything is digital and they should be able to participate in that."



The program, designed for middle and high school students, includes 250 separate lessons that use research-based approaches for breaking down concepts and teaching skills in explicit steps. The lessons offer short videos with animation to

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We live in this world where everything is digital and they should be able to participate in that.

”

introduce no more than a couple of concepts at a time. Students are continually asked to demonstrate their knowledge and are rewarded with virtual badges.

The curriculum gives them a foundation to build skills that can be used in

the workplace. It's divided into four modules and teaches skills like using Gmail and social media, as well as advanced tasks like coding.

McKeone plans to work with companies to develop certification programs so that Digitability can be tailored for specific workplace skills.

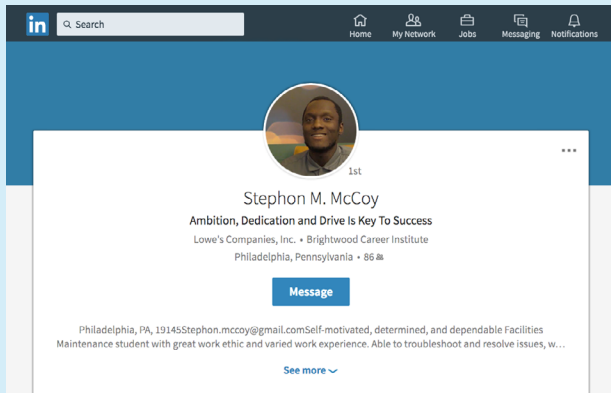
'Food, flowers or filth'

Training people with intellectual disabilities to work with technology is the best way to prepare them for jobs outside of "food, flowers or filth," said Jonathan Lazar, a computer science professor at Towson University in Maryland. Lazar is referring to food service jobs, basic landscaping and janitorial work.

But there needs to be a change in how people perceive people with intellectual disabilities such as Down syndrome and autism.

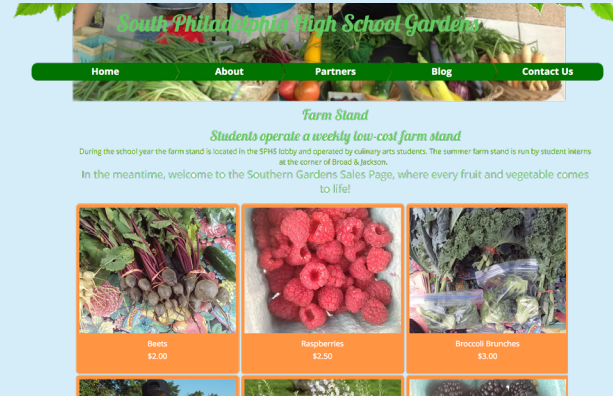
***Read the full article:
bit.ly/digitability***

Your Students Leave Digitability Prepared for a Job



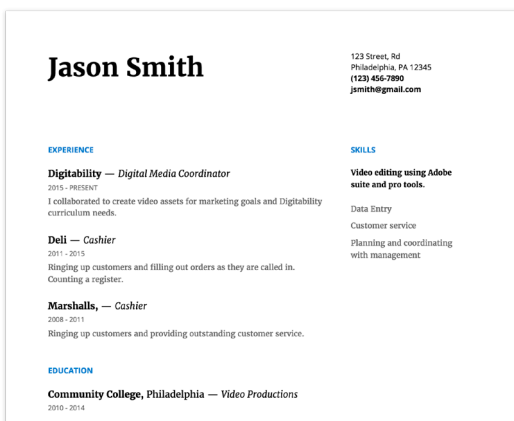
Online Profile for Networking

Digitability teaches students how to create a professional LinkedIn account and how to properly navigate establishing and maintaining professional relationships.



Digital Project Samples

Digitability houses students' online digital portfolios for future reference during interviews and other professional networking opportunities.



Professional Resume

Students will graduate from the Digitability program with a professional resume filled with real-world work experience gained through their Work Simulations.



Interviewing Skills

Able to cite specific skills acquired during Digitability Work Simulations, students are prepared for professional interviews through practice and repetition.