Digital Literacy, the Pandemic, & Racism

Realities Demanding Action from Adult Education

Jen Vanek

EdTech Center @
World Education

CAEP Summit 2020

EdTech CENTER@ WORLD EDUCATION

Many thanks to my co-authors

Tom Cytron-Hysom,Northstar Digital Literacy Project
Rachel Riggs,Frederick Community College
Alison Ascher Webber, EdTech Center@World Education

BLACK LIVES MATTER
CASH ONLY
Sno-Balls $4.50
Bottled WATER $3.00

What we wanted to know:

How do digital inequities reflect & perpetuate racial and other disparities?

What strategies do you use to create an inclusive classroom or learning opportunities?

Background info:

Workers of color are disproportionately affected by digital skill gaps … For example, Black workers comprise 12 percent of overall workers, but represent 15 percent of the subset of workers who have no digital skills and 21 percent of those with limited skills. Latino workers (who may be of any race) are 14 percent of overall workers, but represent a full 35 percent of workers with no digital skills, and 20 percent of those with limited skills.

Applying a racial equity lens to digital literacy: How Workers of Color are Affected by Digital Skill Gaps, 2020

8/10

middle-skills jobs require digital skills...

Yet...

Access

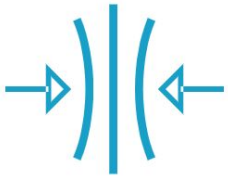
18 million

households do not have broadband internet

Skills

32 million

adults cannot use a computer effectively



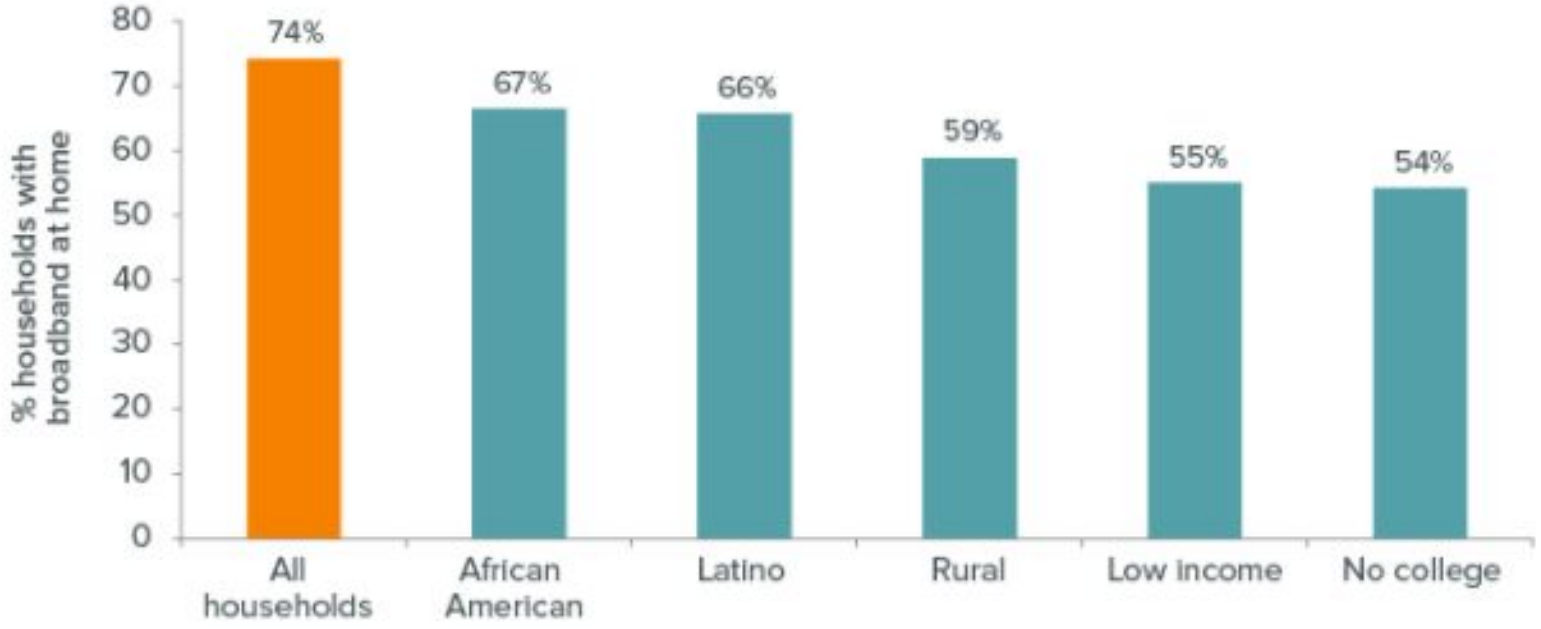
Resilience

1/2

of Americans aren't comfortable using technology to learn

Digital US

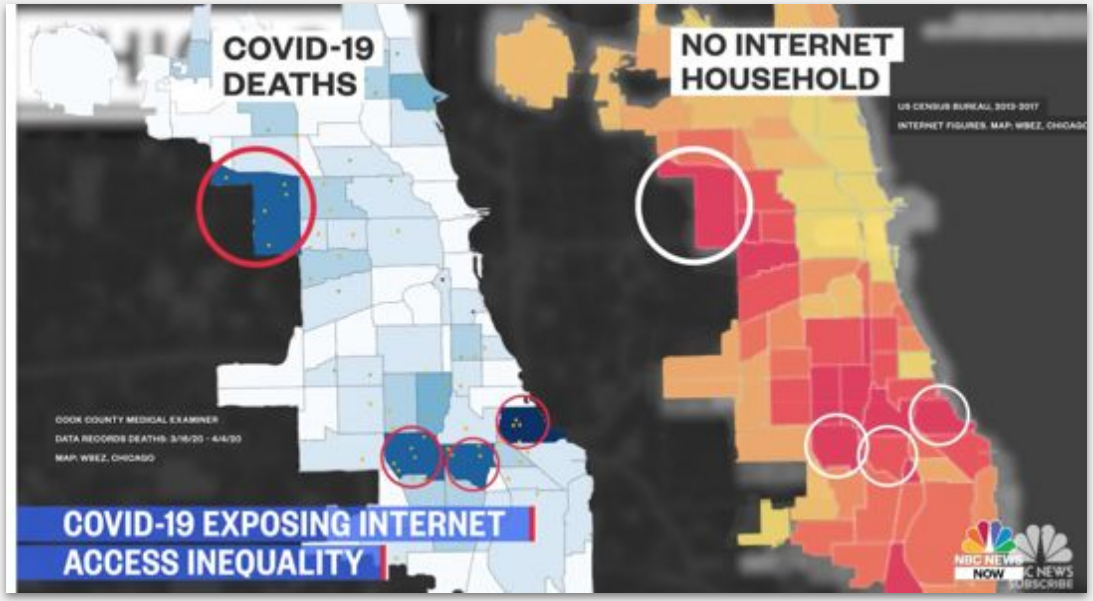
California's digital divide persists for several demographic groups



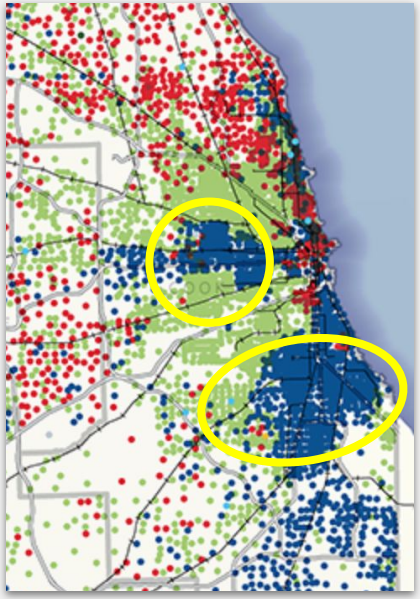
SOURCE: American Community Survey, 2017.

Source: Public Policy Institute of California **Also check: https://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/digitaldivide.asp**

Perils of Digital Exclusion



Overlap of internet access and COVID-19 impact (NBC News, 2020, 03:15-05:21)



https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/updates/all/-/asset_publisher/UIMfSLnFfMB6/content/race-and-ethnicity-in-the-cmap-region

Vasanth Rajkumar

Our Process

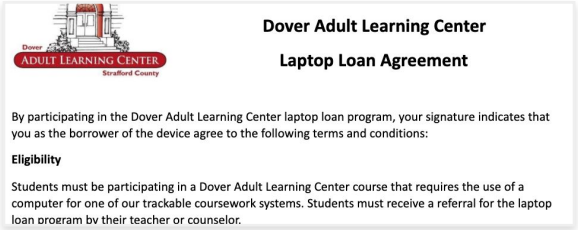
To answer these questions:

1) *How do we see digital inequities reflected in and perpetuating racial and other disparities?*

2) What instructional strategies and program practices do we employ to mitigate the inequity and digital exclusion that BIPOC learners face?

Access and Devices

Lend Devices



Dover Adult Learning Center

Laptop Loan Agreement

By participating in the Dover Adult Learning Center laptop loan program, your signature indicates that you as the borrower of the device agree to the following terms and conditions:

Eligibility

Students must be participating in a Dover Adult Learning Center course that requires the use of a computer for one of our trackable coursework systems. Students must receive a referral for the laptop loan program by their teacher or counselor.

Set-up device lending programs

Leverage funding initiatives

Share Existing Deals

NDIA: Free & low cost plan list

https://www.digitalinclusion.org/free-low-cost-internet-plans

Build Partnerships

DAYSPRING PROGRAMS

WIOA partners

Public - Private collaboration

Suggestions for Instruction

- Understand digital learning needs broadly
- Create digital literacy action plans for learners
- Optimize materials for smartphone use

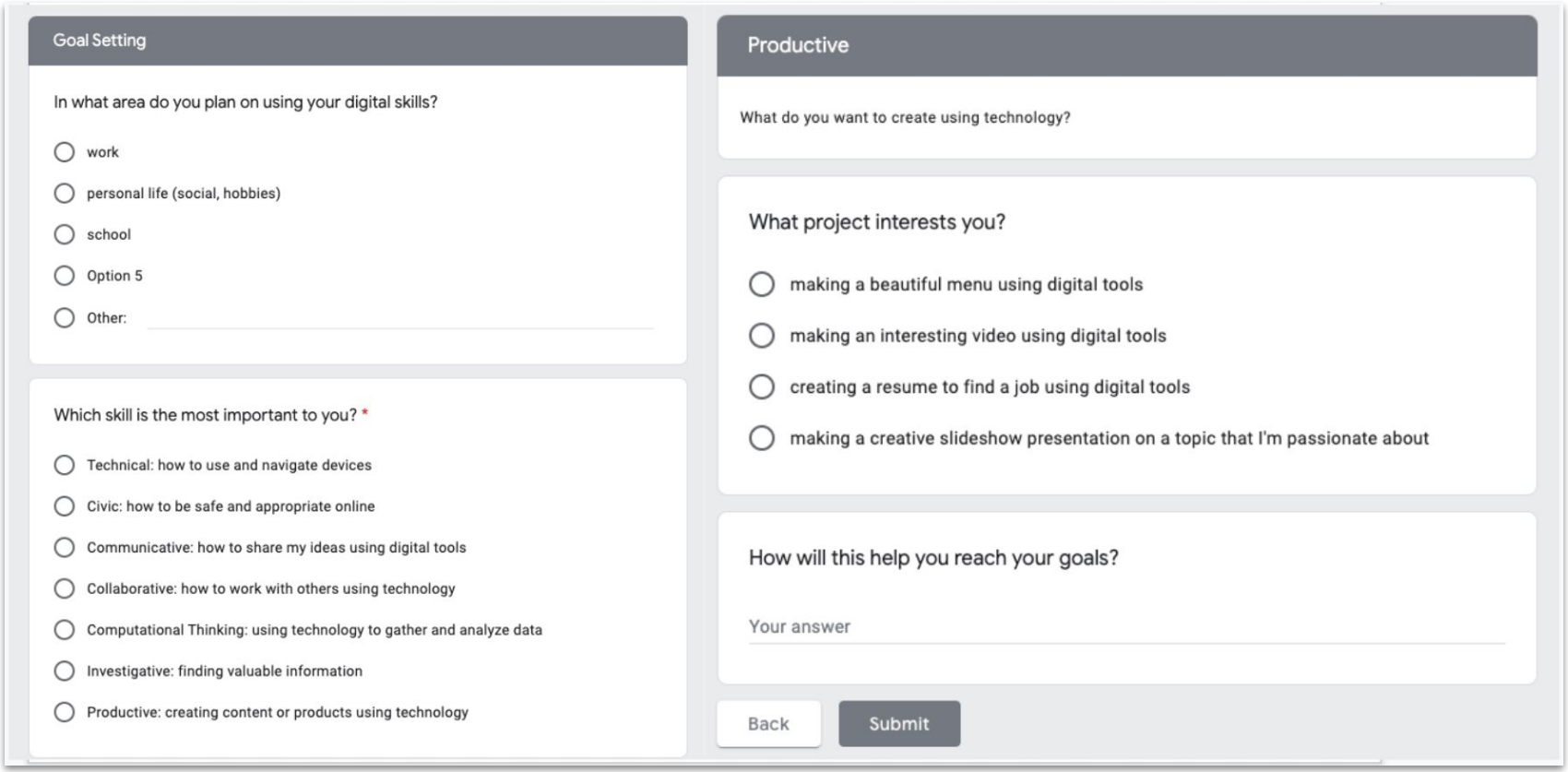
Understand digital learning needs

Northstar Digital Literacy Standards

Maryland ABE Digital Literacy Framework

ISTE Standards & LifeLong Learner Framework

Digital literacy action plan



Goal Setting

In what area do you plan on using your digital skills?

- work
- personal life (social, hobbies)
- school
- Option 5
- Other:

Which skill is the most important to you? *

- Technical: how to use and navigate devices
- Civic: how to be safe and appropriate online
- Communicative: how to share my ideas using digital tools
- Collaborative: how to work with others using technology
- Computational Thinking: using technology to gather and analyze data
- Investigative: finding valuable information
- Productive: creating content or products using technology

Productive

What do you want to create using technology?

What project interests you?

- making a beautiful menu using digital tools
- making an interesting video using digital tools
- creating a resume to find a job using digital tools
- making a creative slideshow presentation on a topic that I'm passionate about

How will this help you reach your goals?

Your answer

Back Submit

Resource designed by Rachel Riggs, Frederick Community College

Optimize materials for smartphone use

Sherry Lehane (Providence Public Library) has identified five key elements of smartphone-friendly instructional design:

1. limit the main points on the screen,
2. plan the layout with a smartphone in mind,
3. improve readability,
4. choose file types that increase accessibility, and
5. consider touch screen navigation

(*Template for Designing and Delivering Smartphone Instruction*, 2020)

Insert learning object: one per screen

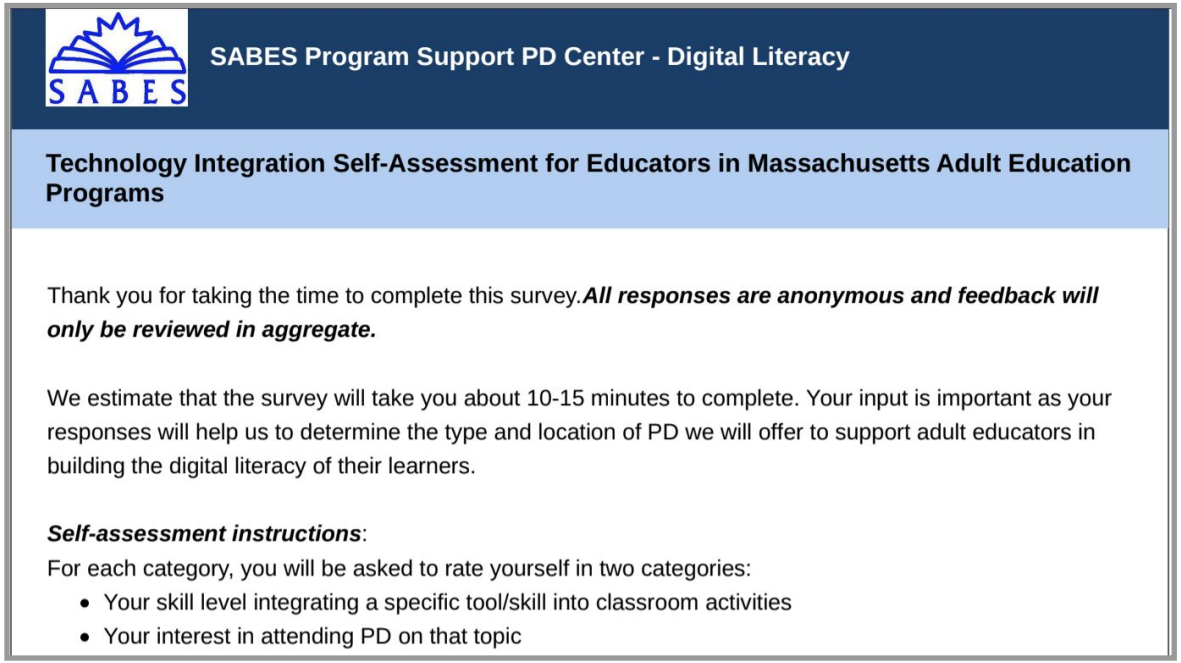
Understanding Video Resolution

Listen to Sherry Lehane describe how to create these slides here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcUfXDGzbZs&feature=youtu.be&list=PLlMfSiUPpWPG2-NPP6G25ltb6TFkpVux3&t=2624.

Professional Development

Build teacher digital skills & comfort

Integrate digital literacy into PD



SABES Program Support PD Center - Digital Literacy

Technology Integration Self-Assessment for Educators in Massachusetts Adult Education Programs

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.***All responses are anonymous and feedback will only be reviewed in aggregate.***

We estimate that the survey will take you about 10-15 minutes to complete. Your input is important as your responses will help us to determine the type and location of PD we will offer to support adult educators in building the digital literacy of their learners.

Self-assessment instructions:
For each category, you will be asked to rate yourself in two categories:

- Your skill level integrating a specific tool/skill into classroom activities
- Your interest in attending PD on that topic

Call to Action for You!

1. Implement suggested instructional strategies and PD options
2. Embed support for access to devices and internet (e.g.,digital navigator services and these CA resources.
3. Support students to share their stories of impact digital exclusion or benefits of inclusion efforts
4. Engage in advocacy in support digital equity and inclusion. Follow Digital US Coalition and National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Your Questions

Jen_Vanek@WorldEd.Org