

Evaluation Summary

The Verizon California Technology Literacy Project

Background

Funded by Verizon, the California Technology Literacy Project is the largest middle school technology literacy initiative ever implemented. The non-profit Generation Y Corporation was designated to deliver the Project to 10,000 7th grade students in 45 underserved schools in California's Central Valley starting in January of 2006.

TechYES Model

The Project employed the TechYES model of *Student*

Technology Literacy Certification. The TechYES model assumes that students can take on major responsibility in mastering technology to accomplish meaningful projects. In each participating school, Peer Mentors were prepared to act as tutors and evaluators who help each student complete two projects to demonstrate their technology proficiency. Technology literacy

is achieved without the use of standardized tests or skill checklists.



Evaluation

Evaluation of the Project was performed by the Woodside Research Consortium (WRC) under the direction of Dr. Steven A. Schneider as the external evaluator for the project. The complete WRC evaluation can be found on line at www.geny.org/verizon.

To test the project hypotheses, WRC surveyed and tested all three major groups involved in the Project throughout the 45 participating schools:

- ▶ **TechYES Adult Advisors** – Usually a teacher at each school who coordinates the program, oversees the Peer Mentors and makes the final judgment on student projects.
- ▶ **TechYES Peer Mentors** – These are specially trained students at each school (usually 8th graders) who assist the 7th graders complete their projects and provide preliminary assessment.
- ▶ **TechYES Students** – 7th grade students (mostly Hispanic and Southeast Asian) who completed two projects showing they are technology proficient.

Project Goals

The project's goal was to investigate the following hypotheses:

- The TechYES model can narrow the digital divide.
- The TechYES model can improve academic as well as technology proficiency and has other benefits for participants.
- Middle school students can be relied on as tutors and evaluators.
- Educators view the TechYES model as a viable methodology to meet the NCLB requirement that every 8th grade student in the U.S. is technology literate.

Evaluation Highlights

Teachers agreed (97%) that **TechYES helped bridge the digital divide** in their primarily Hispanic and Southeast Asian schools.

TechYES is a good way to ensure students are technology literate. Agree - Teachers (100%), Peer Mentors (91%) and TechYES students (84%).

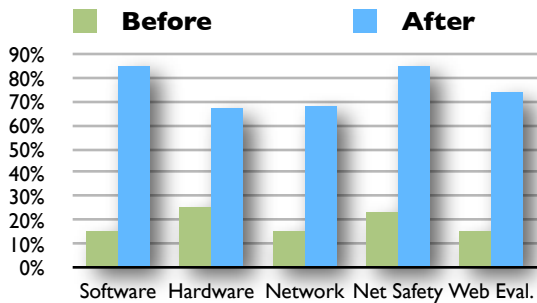
The **Peer Mentors were mature enough to be successful mentors.** Agree - Teachers (87%), Peer Mentors (84%), and TechYES students (77%)

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Student Technology Skill Levels

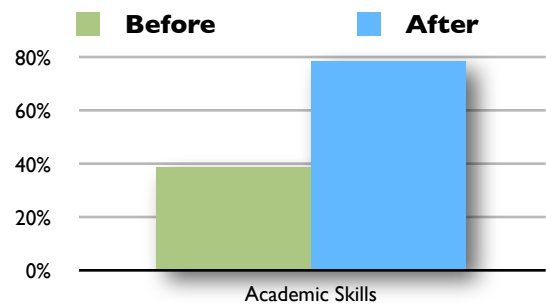
Knows well or expert (according to TechYES Advisors)



“TechYES is an excellent structure for teaching technology literacy to all students. I find the student guide to be excellent and the use of peer mentors offers opportunities for students to improve their leadership skills and self-confidence.” - TechYES Advisor

Student Academic Improvement

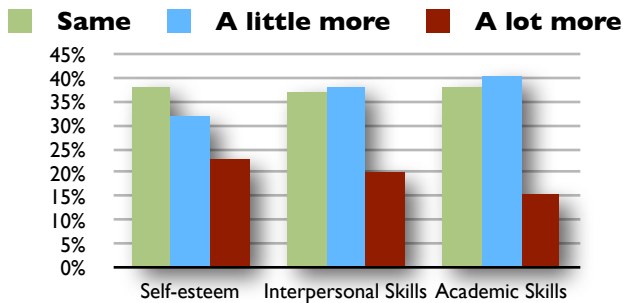
Knows well or expert (according to TechYES Advisors)



“TechYES was a catalyst to get most of our students involved in using more technology.”

- TechYES Advisor

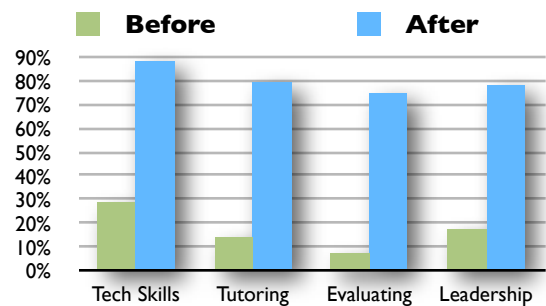
Student’s Self-rating of Skills Due to TechYES Participation



100% of TechYES Advisors agreed:
TechYES is a good way to ensure middle school student technology literacy.

Peer Mentors Skills

Knows well or expert (according to TechYES Advisors)



“TechYES was a fun and challenging way to learn how to use technology. With the Peer Mentors, I could easily ask them for help and they would explain it to me so simply, that I understood it almost immediately.”

- TechYES Student

The complete WRC evaluation can be found on line at www.geny.org/verizon

For more information on TechYES, visit www.genyes.com/techytes TechYES is a registered trademark of the Generation YES Corp.