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Personalized Learners Double Academic Growth

For fourth consecutive year, personalized learners in a hybrid environment outperform traditional learners

Lehigh Valley, PA, November 30, 2016: Personalized learners experienced double the rate of academic growth on benchmark assessments and outperformed traditional students by 20% on state exams, according to the Hybrid Learning Institute (HLI).

HLI's "Impact Report for Academic Year 2015-16" released today on the effectiveness of personalized learning revealed that for the fourth consecutive year personalized learning significantly exceeded traditional classroom environments for improving student achievement and growth.

"Personalized learning combines proven teaching methods with new technologies to create an individualized educational experience for every student," said Kevin Dellicker, founder of HLI and President of Dellicker Strategies, the lead consultants to HLI and authors of the report. "Personalization does not replace traditional brick-and-mortar schools, it makes them better."

"Students saw twice the rate of growth and scored 20 points higher on standardized tests," continued Dellicker, "We couldn't be more proud of our students and teachers."

Since 2011, Dellicker Strategies has worked with 110 different schools to design and implement personalized learning in hybrid (blended) classroom settings. The 2015-16 report evaluates 161 blended programs impacting 13,500 students in 58 schools. It is the largest study of its kind focused on the results of personalized instruction in mainstream public and private schools.

The report documents specific and substantial gains in academic performance among students in personalized learning environments:

- Students in personalized classrooms passed their state exams at a rate 20% higher than students in traditional learning environments;
- Personalized learners excelled in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) academics, beating traditional students by 38% in math and 10% in science, and;

-They also scored “advanced” on state math exams (the highest level of achievement) at a rate 52% higher than traditional students.

Gains were consistent across all levels of schooling. More personalized learners achieved proficiency on state exams in elementary school (+15%), middle school (+31%) and high school (+20%). They also scored advanced at much greater rates, outperforming by 24% in elementary school, by 59% in middle school and by 76% in high school.

On average, students in personalized classrooms experienced 98% better growth on state-aligned benchmarks compared to students in comparable, traditional classrooms taking the same assessments.

Besides improving student performance, personalized learning was better for college and career readiness. HLI’s study found that 80% of parents, teachers and students agreed that personalized classrooms taught skills such as teamwork, independent learning and technology proficiency better than traditional classrooms. Eighty percent of teachers also said that personalized learning was more effective at developing higher order thinking skills in students.

Personalization works by employing sound instructional strategies that improve student engagement and motivate children to learn. When students are more interested in what they are learning, they tend to get better results. In fact, the HLI study confirmed that personalized learning improved classroom participation while reducing discipline problems. Eight out of ten students in all grade levels said they enjoyed learning in a personalized environment.

“The taxpayer also benefits from this teaching strategy,” Dellicker explained. “Personalization often incorporates free online resources and instructional materials that the school already uses. It’s a very cost-effective way to improve the quality of teaching and learning, accessible to every school.”

Personalized learning is economical, effective and engaging. This is not a teaching method of the future; it is happening successfully now in Pennsylvania’s schools.

To access the 2015-16 Impact Report, visit www.hybridlearninginstitute.org/results/reports/.

About the Hybrid Learning Institute

The HLI is a national effort to promote, plan and implement promising blended models for student-centric education in mainstream schools. For more information visit: www.hybridlearninginstitute.org.

The report was compiled by Dellicker Strategies, an independent change-management company that specializes in educational technology and personalized learning. Dellicker Strategies serves as lead consulting organization to HLI. Visit: www.dellicker.com.

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