

Smart Buy!

Improving edtech purchasing
with the learning sciences



COURSE
FO
MIND



Course of Mind is about putting learning sciences in educators' hands.

A partnership between ISTE and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.

Our goal is to make teaching more effective, efficient, and inclusive.

In phase one, our resources introduced educators to the learning sciences.

In phase two, we're making resources to improve edtech buying.



Test your might!

Learners have learning styles that teachers should adapt to.

- Learner variability exists, but there is no evidence to support specific learning styles.
- Differentiating instruction takes time and energy!
- Effective dual coding, pacing, scaffolding, chunking, and interleaving aligned to learning goals is best.



Other fun/dangerous myths:

- Right vs. left brain
- The “10,000 hours” rule
- You only use 10% of your brain
- Digital natives learn differently
- Inherent gender differences
- You learn while you sleep

What does good edtech look like?

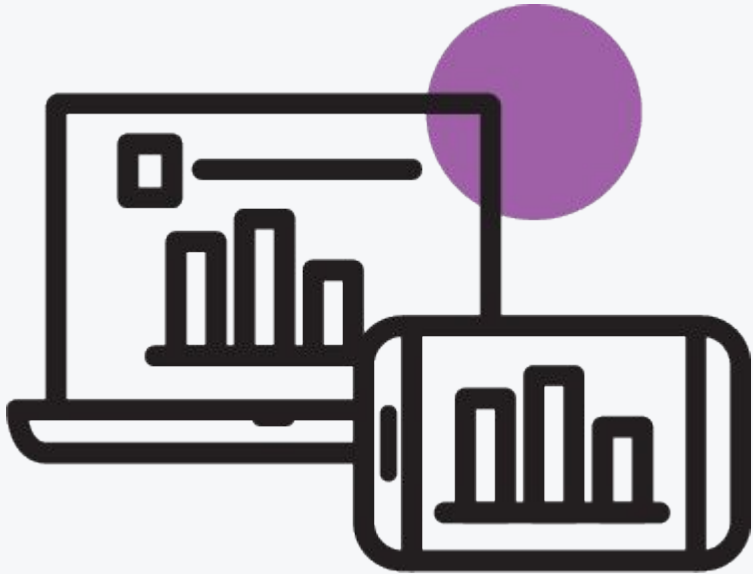
“It looked good in the demo!”

Researchers know a lot about how learning works, and teachers know a lot about what works with their students.

We want to make that knowledge accessible to educators to inform classroom practices and administrative decisions, especially about edtech.



Smart buying



We're looking at

- Digital curriculum
- LMS products
- Formative assessment apps

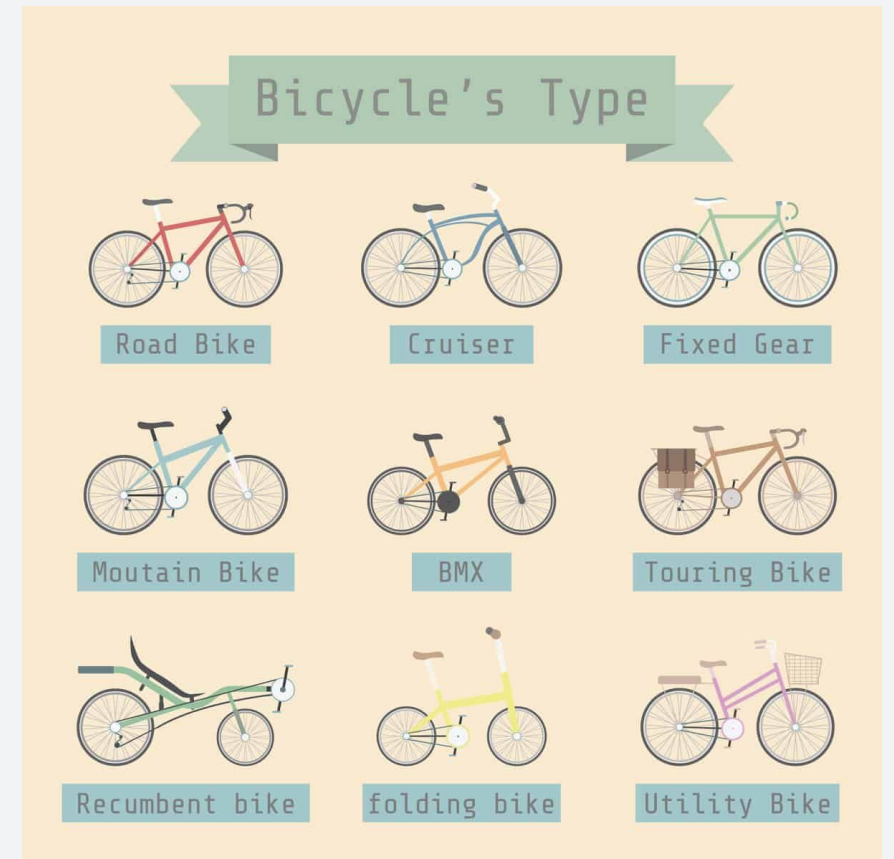
Grounded in

- Multimedia principles
- The mechanics of memory
- Motivation, SEL, & whole child

Task = Buy a bicycle

You're going to go down to the bicycle shop and purchase a new bicycle.

- How well could you determine your own objectives for the bicycle?
- Based on your objectives, how well could you select a bicycle on your own?
- **What kinds of information, ratings, or reviews would be helpful to you in making that decision?**



What does learning have to do with it?



Our criteria are...

- Grounded in learning sciences
- Continuous (not leveled)
- In plain language

We want a toolkit to be...

- Rigorous
- Simple
- Informative

Teammates



Dr. Saro Mohammed
Founder + Principal
Ed Research Works



Dr. Rachel Schechter
LXD Evaluator & Consultant
Charles River Media Group

Digital curriculum

Solutions for every subject, student, and school



Engaged learners are better learners.

Key literacy skills cannot be taught with just any content. Engage students with thousands of texts on topics they care about most, with standards-aligned lesson supports built for ELA instruction.

[Explore Newsela ELA](#)

- Newsela ELA
- Newsela Social Studies
- Newsela Science
- Newsela Essentials
- The Newsela SEL Collection
- Newsela Custom Collections

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PreK-12 Education

Learning that reflects the world we live in

Because learning is a never-ending road of discovery, it needs to meet each student where they are.

Ignite a love of learning with interactive tools and content that engage, motivate, and prepare each learner for success.

Explore resources for PreK-12 learners

Keep Creating “Aha!” Moments Together

See how learning can still be effective and meaningful, no matter where it's taking place.

Explore Family

or

Explore School

Science

Social Studies

English

Math

Arts and Music

Health and SEL

Engineering and Tech

New and Trending

Digital curriculum



Digital curriculum should balance cognitive load, feature relevant content, and provide opportunities for effective practice.

- (Information Chunks) Content is previewed and organized into age-appropriate, attainable chunks with milestones.
- (Accurate Graphics) Graphics are relevant, informative, and accurate, and do not promote cultural stereotypes.
- (Meaningful Practice) Elaboration and retrieval activities are relevant to students and reflect their culture and lives.

Note your role. Pick one, and does your product do this well?



LMS



canvas

Blackboard



Google Classroom



Edmodo



schoolology®



brightspace
by D2L

Learning management system



LMSs should facilitate equitable access and cultural responsiveness, student-directed learning, and positive learning culture.

- (Data informed instruction) Opportunities and prompts facilitate use of analytics to explore equity of access and performance.
- (Student choice) Opportunities and prompts support student choice about topics and/or learning pathways.
- (Relationship Building) Opportunities and prompts support relationship building through communication mechanisms.

Note your role. Pick one, and does your product do this well?



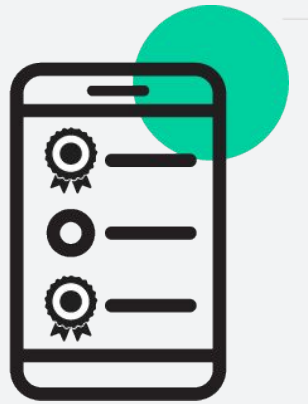
Formative assessment



Kahoot!



Formative assessment apps



Assessment apps should align to teaching needs in terms of the user experience, instructional purpose, reporting requirements, and feedback mechanisms.

- (Balances Effort & Engagement) Options to create & collaborate to solve problems and have students “show what they know”
- (Formats Match Purpose) Feedback formats match what teachers need in terms of mode and content (e.g., videos, draw, comment)
- (Cyclical Feedback) A back and forth between educators and students to share information to inform learning needs

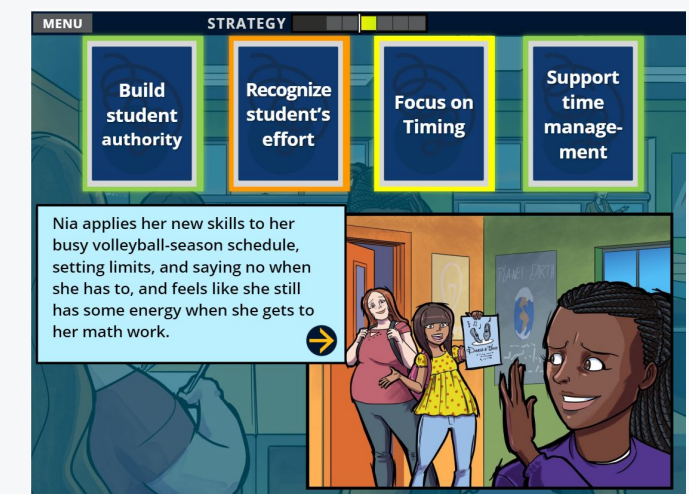
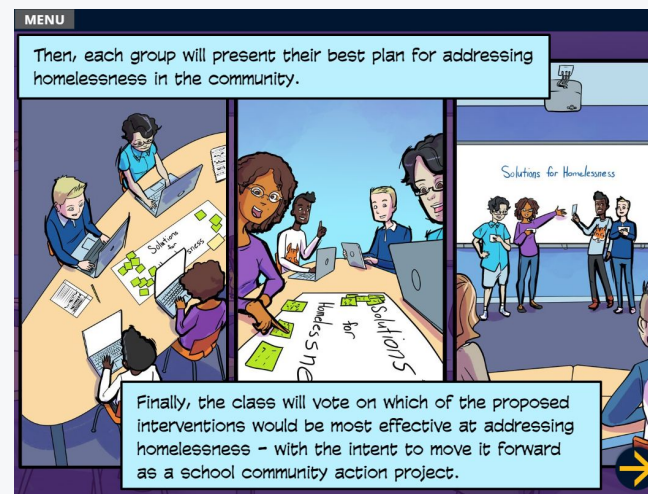
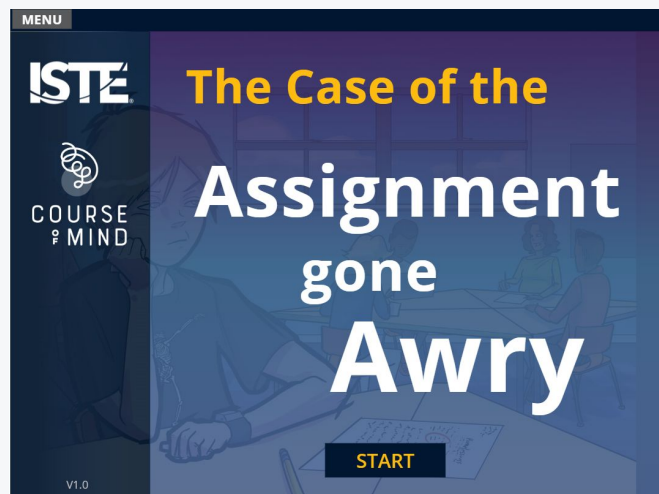
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Power the art of teaching with the learning sciences

Make learning with edtech more meaningful by bringing together the learning sciences and your own teaching experience.

courseofmind.org



Thank you!

Be on the lookout for new resources in the fall - and sign up for updates at **courseofmind.org**!

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END