

# BUSTING MYTHS ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING

Online learning offers a break from the factory model and a path to personalization for students and for teachers. As online learning opportunities grow, so too does the body of evidence that replaces outdated myths with a more realistic picture of student and teacher experiences with online learning.

## THREE ADVANTAGES OF ONLINE LEARNING

### CUSTOMIZATION

adaptive learning with individualized pathways

### MOTIVATION

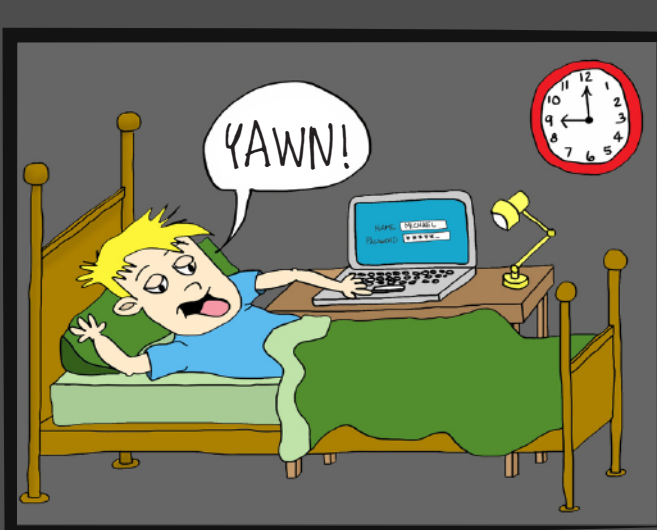
more engaging content with an emphasis on modalities that produce persistence

### EQUALIZATION

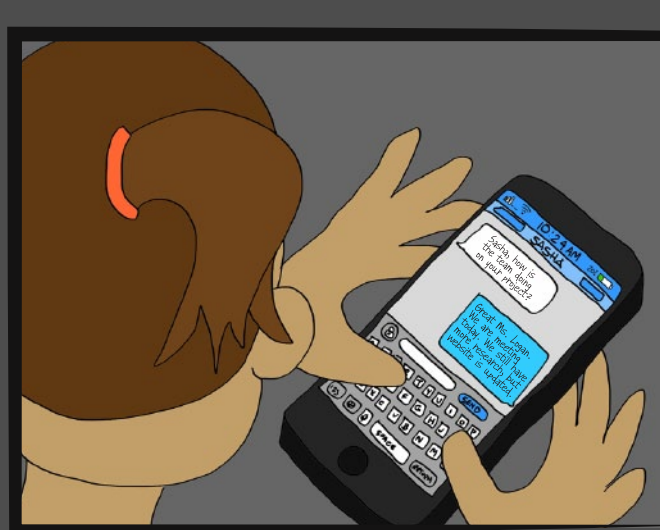
24 / 7 / 365 access to quality content and great teachers for all students

Source: Vander Ark, T. Getting Smart: How Digital Learning Is Changing the World. Jossey-Bass, 2011.

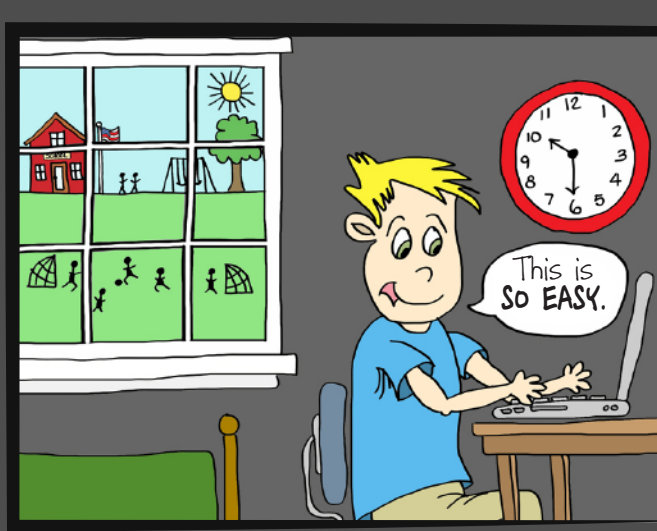
## MYTH VS. REALITY



Students don't take learning seriously.



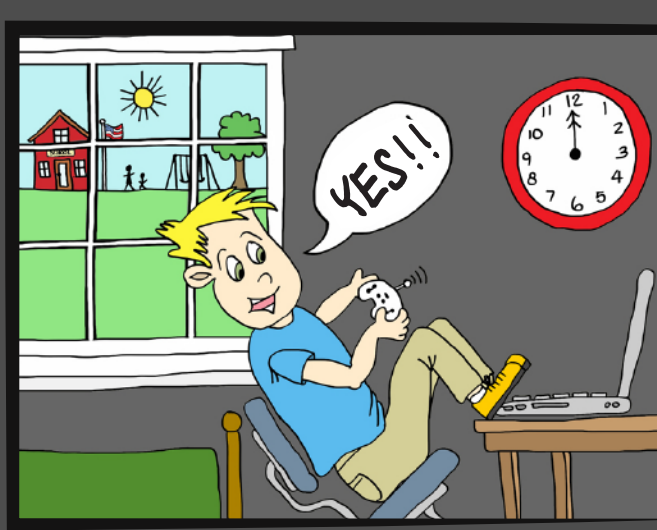
Students are more engaged with their learning and teachers.



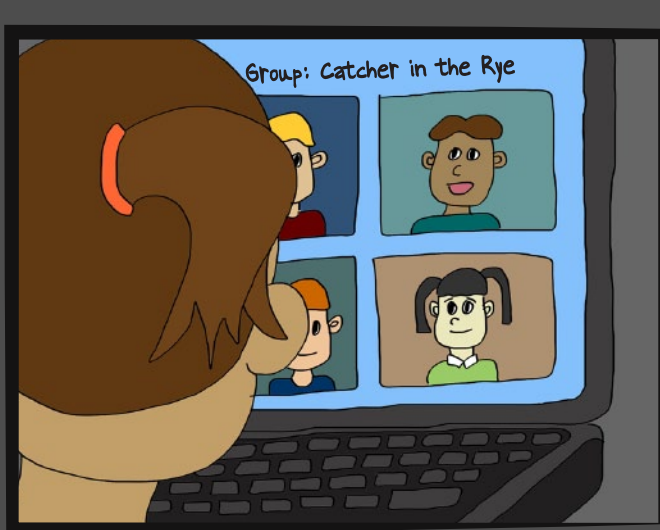
Online learning is easy and kids are isolated.



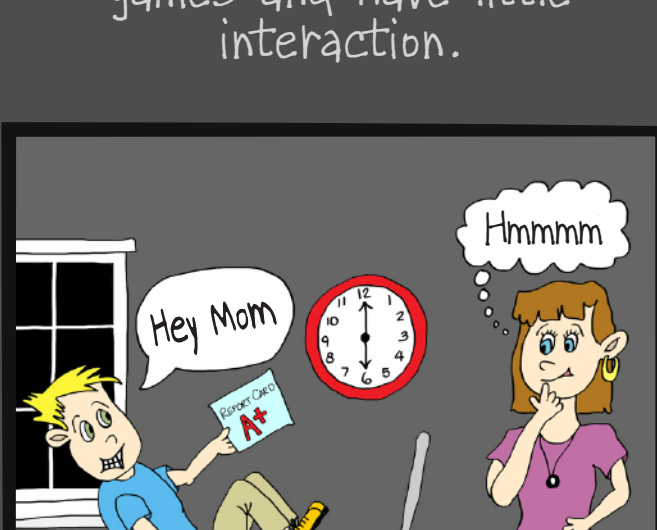
Online learning is challenging and often includes meeting in-person.



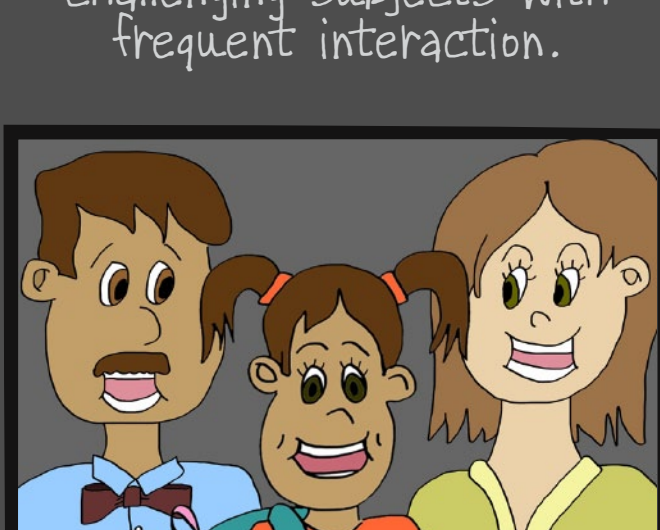
Online students just play games and have little interaction.



Students engage with challenging subjects with frequent interaction.



Parents worry if online learning is too easy and really works.

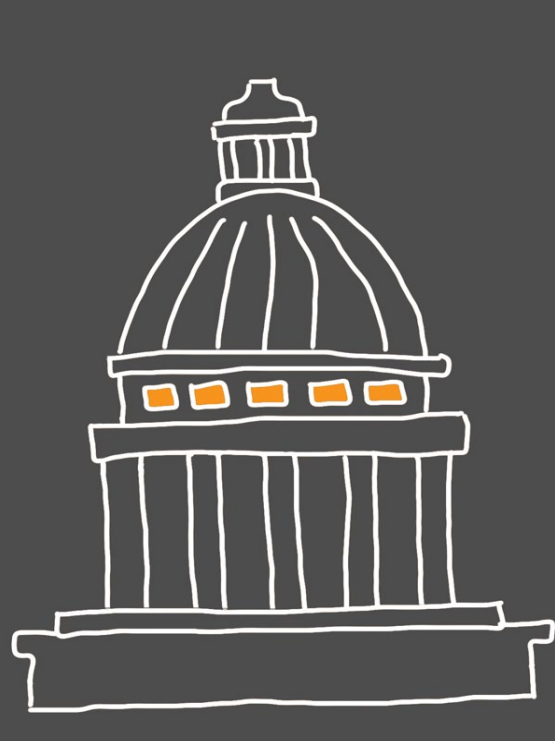


Parents appreciate online learning helping their child succeed.

## DRIVERS OF ONLINE LEARNING

Source: Adapted from iNACOL: "A National Primer on K-12 Online Learning, Version 2.," October 2010.

- > expanding the range of courses available to students beyond what a school or district can offer;
- > expanding access to highly effective teachers, particularly in high-need subjects such as math and science;
- > affording opportunities for at-risk students, elite athletes and performers, dropouts, migrant youth, pregnant or incarcerated students and students who are homebound due to illness or injury, allowing them to continue their studies outside the classroom;
- > providing credit recovery programs for students who have failed courses and/or dropped out of school, allowing them to get back on track to graduate;
- > providing continuity of education for highly mobile student populations such as migrant youth; and
- > reducing scheduling conflicts by providing more flexible options.



700 BILLS  
152 LAWS

## POLICY

The [2012 Digital Learning Report Card](#) from Digital Learning Now! reveals that states are making significant progress in advancing reforms that support the 10 Elements, noting that more than 700 bills involving digital learning were considered in 2012 and more than 152 signed into law. Nearly every state enacted a bill that advanced a digital learning policy.



Online learning can deliver on the promise of personalized learning to all students in a way that until now has not been possible.

With thoughtful implementation, the shift to online learning has the potential to address the interrelated challenges of implementing college and career readiness standards, preparing for next-generation assessments and extending student access to high-quality learning opportunities.

