



Digital Learning Around the Clock

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Learning Can Happen Anytime

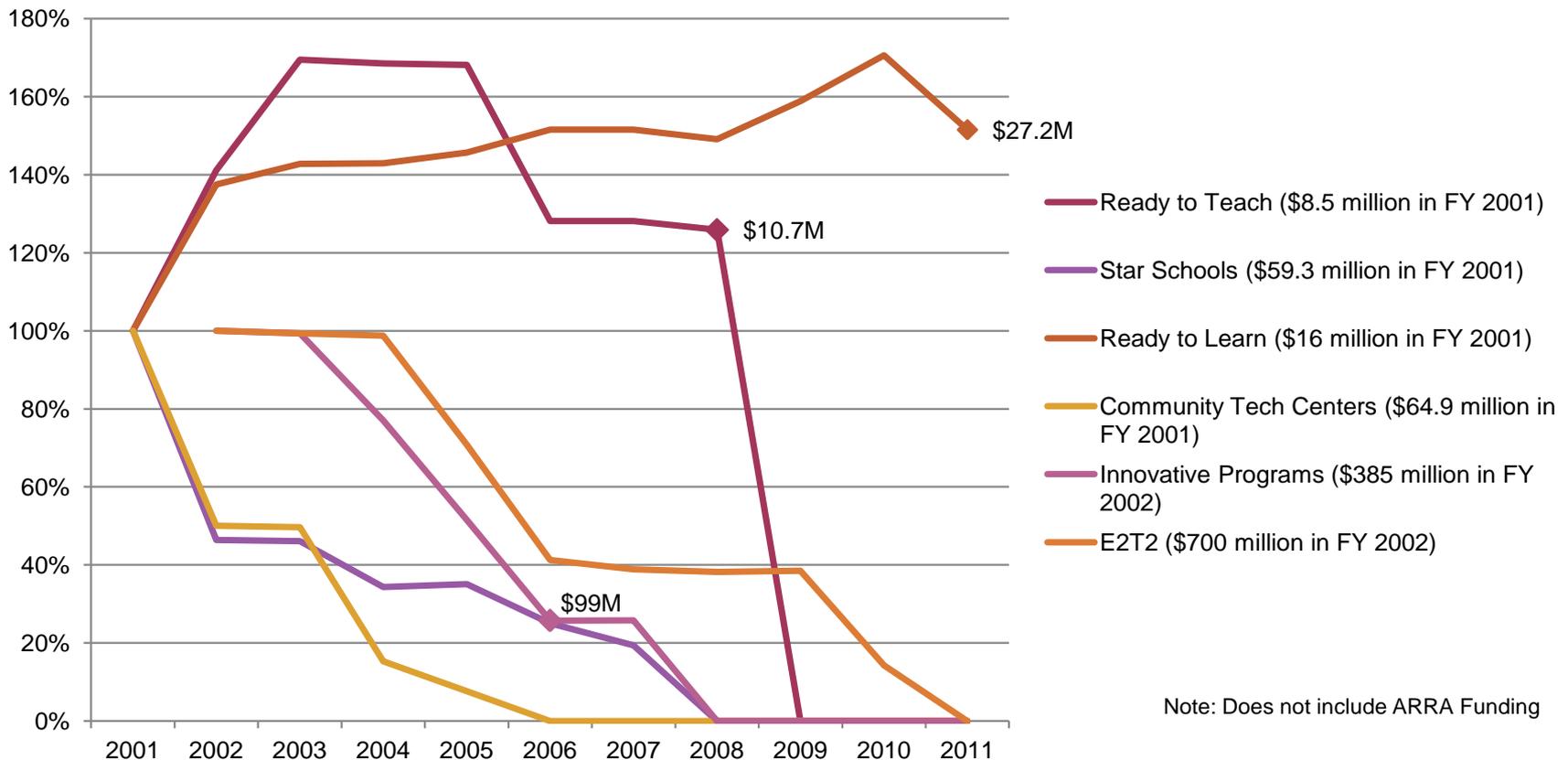


- Television, computers, and mobile devices are enabling kids to learn around the clock
- New opportunities for self-guided, interest-driven learning
- This is a good thing — research shows that when out-of-school learning engages students, they are more likely to attend school, pass classes, and graduate
- Policy hasn't quite caught up yet...

Dedicated Funding for Education Technology is Near Extinction



Federal Education Technology Program Funding (as Percentage of Year One Funding)



What's Happening At School



- Schools are at or near full penetration in computer and Internet access (Education Dept. survey says 100% have computers with Internet access, 97% have computers in classrooms)
- Some districts are beginning to embrace new learning methods — digital textbooks, individual laptops, Smartboards, etc.
- What we don't know is how these are being used ... and how well.

What's Happening At School...



- Technology is exponentially more useful when it comes with teacher professional development
- With teacher buy-in, teachers say technology positively impacts their students' creativity, motivation, and critical thinking skills
- Digital learning in school is also limited by barriers like:
 - Seat time
 - Cultural shift required

The New Digital Divide



- The new digital divide is between **home** and **school**
- 28% of 4th graders who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch do not have a computer at home — compared with only 7% of their wealthier peers
- For many low-income students, school is the only place where they have access to the Internet
- We do know that individuals and populations utilize technology differently. For instance, Latinos lead other ethnicities in Internet access on mobile devices

What We Need...



What we need are ways to plug in to kids anytime, anywhere.

Kids from all backgrounds have access to mobile devices now, or computers, or television — we need to harness the power of that access and make more opportunities to learn.

The Good News



- This is happening in some places
- Museums and libraries
 - Chicago and New York Public Libraries have innovative “learning labs,” rethinking the ways kids learn, connecting them to digital spaces, and mentoring them through self-guided learning experiences
 - Building opportunities for long-term projects on topics of interest — some programs have focused specifically on STEM subjects, arts and culture, and other areas

The Good News...



- Expanded learning opportunities as a national trend
 - There has been continued federal funding for ELO in tough budget times
 - Expanded learning programs often have more opportunities for innovation because they are more nimble, especially afterschool and summer programs

- Home
 - Educational television, online experiences, and gaming

Lingering Concerns



- Policy has yet to identify how to support and encourage digital learning across formal and informal education
 - How would that be measured?
 - What entities would funding be directed toward?
 - How does digital learning become an integral part of all learning any time, anywhere?

Lingering Concerns



■ Equity

- The quality, quantity, and types of devices in low-income communities are very different than high-income communities
- Wide variation between learning in school and continued at home
- Funding for teacher professional development and support varies
- Many new technologies do not yet have the capability to serve all students equally. Electronic book readers, for instance, have not yet been optimized for visually impaired readers.