



EDUCATE • INFORM • EMPOWER

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2022

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# Letter from Founder

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The Year 2022 has been a transitional year. The pandemic is receding, but outbreaks still happen. Schools are using more technology, but are back in person. Events are opening up, but they vary between being in person, online or something in between. Prices have gone up and down and people are shifting jobs and roles. This transition has affected Digital Respons-Ability as well. We still offer virtual learning, but have had high demand on our in-person classes. We have had adjustments in staffing and curriculum.

I like the term “liminal space” to describe times like the year 2022. A liminal space is a space between spaces, somewhere in between here and there. A liminal space can be physical, like a train station, or conceptual. I’ve teased to partners that Digital Respons-Ability is going through puberty—a weird time when you’re growing but you don’t exactly know what you’re growing into. But with that awkwardness or uncertainty comes excitement. Times of change challenge us, they bring us new perceptions, innovations, ideas and encourage risk.

Personally, I’ve been in those liminal spaces before. It can be tough with hours of ruminating and examining the many paths ahead asking ‘which one is “right?”’ We tend to judge our choices as “right” or “wrong” once we get to our destination. But in that liminal space there is no hindsight, no destination, only the opportunity and choice.

Digital Respons-Ability is embracing that liminal space, forging ahead and creating the path as we go. We are carving out new territories with a unique approach that hasn’t happened before. As we enter 2023 I hope we can all learn better to embrace the uncertainty and to see those liminal spaces, confront that uncertainty, and march fearlessly into one of the many paths in front of us.

**Carrie Rogers-Whitehead**

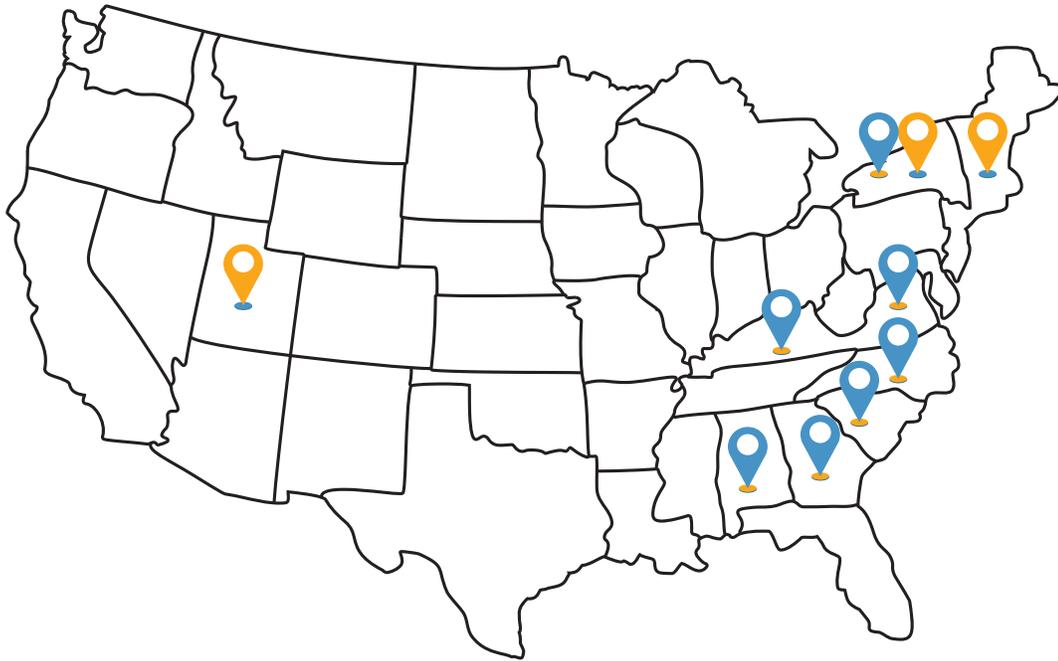
Founder and CEO

Embrace your  
*liminal* space



# DIGITAL RESPONS-ABILITY IS GROWING!

*Respons-Able Educators Create Respons-Able Digital Citizens*



#### DRA LOCATIONS

- Utah
- New York
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- Massachusetts

#### DODEA LOCATIONS

- Virginia
- New York
- Kentucky
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Alabama
- Georgia

*Digital Respons-Ability continues to grow! In 2022 we worked closer with NYSCATE, the New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education. In early 2023, Digital Respons-Ability and NYSCATE will bring our educator training to teachers across New York, providing them with CTLE certification hours.*

*To help grow our work across New England we partnered with the Collaborative for Education Services to help expand our educator training. Finally, in 2023 we also will continue our contract with the Department of Defense Educational Activities (DoDEA) and bring more content to their students.*



National Coalition for Technology  
in Education & Training



# Partnerships in 2022

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*Featured below are some of our many partners that worked with us in 2022 to create a positive digital citizenship community.*

## **Digital Wellness, Citizenship, and Safe Technology Commission**

In 2022 the commission worked to define itself and create goals and projects for the future. We appreciate the opportunity to advise and present on our work and how the commission brings together stakeholders on this topic.

## **International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)**

Some of our staff attended the 2022 ISTE Conference in New Orleans this year, talking to others around the world about digital citizenship. In 2022 we wrote articles for ISTE, offered a webinar and spoke at DigCit Connect, a free virtual event celebrating Digital Citizenship Week. In 2023 our founder's book, *Deepening Digital Citizenship: a Guide to Systemwide Policy and Practice* will be released. The book details some of the work we're doing in Utah and interviews digital citizenship advocates in the state.

## **State Educational Technology Director's Association (SETDA)**

Digital Respons-Ability started working with SETDA in 2020 but in 2022 we became a more involved partner and participated in their Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. During that summit and throughout the year we've had the opportunity to build relationships with state and federal level educators and give input on ed tech issues.

## **Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce (ICAC)**

ICAC continues to stay busy with helping children be safe online. They received a grant to help expand their work and in 2023 we look forward to being one of their Parent Vigilant Initiative trainers. We report monthly our statistics with ICAC and share their work to Utahns.

# Who We Served

We teach our students in classrooms with activities, discussions, take home worksheets and more. We have **6 different digital citizenship classes for elementary students and 8 for secondary.**

**32,443**

**Total served**



**31,429**

**Students**

**1,014**

**Parents**

**Elementary**

**1,013**

**Secondary**

**283**

**Parents**

**33**

“

THE TEACHERS MADE THE LEARNING HANDS-ON AND ENGAGING FOR STUDENTS. WE REALLY APPRECIATED HOW MANY OPPORTUNITIES THEY PROVIDED STUDENTS TO DO SOMETHING RATHER THAN JUST BEING LECTURED.

-EDUCATOR

”

**1,296**

**Total Presentations**



# Who We Served

All our staff are out in the community and part of different boards and councils. Throughout the state you'll find us at meetings, events, conferences, offering virtual trainings and more.

**3,389**

Students

Educators

Parents

**Total People Reached  
from 114 events**

**50%**

**MORE** students and  
parents served from  
2021 to 2022

**160%**

**MORE** students and parents  
served from 2019 to 2022

# Elementary

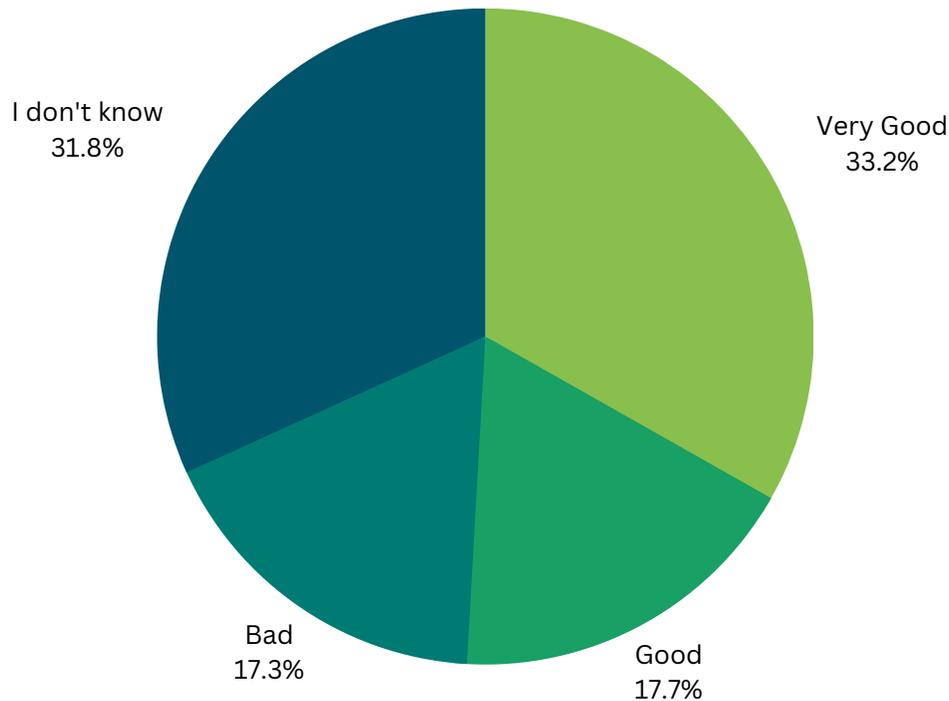
We have **six classes** for our elementary students, and have specific activities aimed at the **youngest children, kindergartners through second graders (K-2)**. When we are able to teach all six classes to elementary students we try to conduct pre and post surveys to track changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviors.



In our elementary classes we talk about our **emotions** and **how** technology and media can influence them. We teach basic techniques for them to step back and self-reflect on their feelings. Being a safe and responsible digital citizen means recognizing the potential effects of our digital behavior and media consumption. If you're aware of your own emotions, you're less likely to say or do something you regret online or be influenced by someone who does not have your best interest at heart.

# Elementary

## Emotional Awareness (K-2)



We asked 220 elementary students from grades K-2:

*"How do you feel when you do things like watch TV, play video games, use a computer, or use a tablet or a cell phone?"*

From those students we found 33.25% answered **very good**; 17.7% answered **good**; 17.3% answered **bad**; and 31.8% answered **I don't know**.

These results help see how well **YOUNG** kids are attuned to their feelings and if they are able to express them. This is an essential skill for all people, but as we teach kids about screen usage and healthy digital habits, it's important to know how well they can identify what they feel and how to express those feelings.

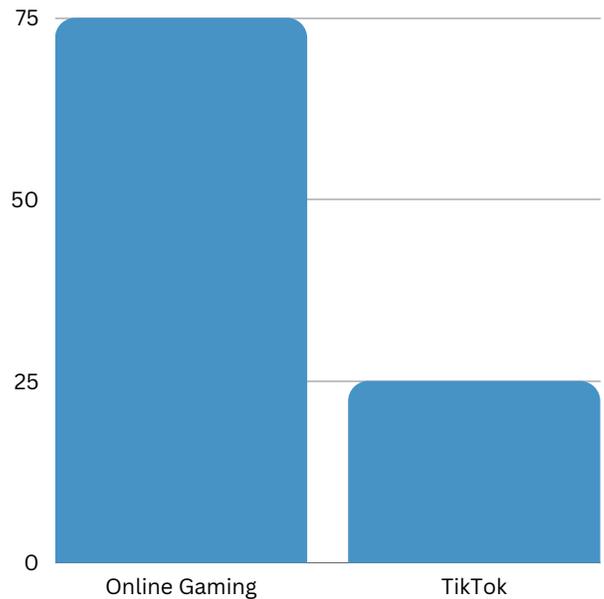
# Elementary

## Social Media Platforms

We asked 324 elementary students:

*"What social media platforms do you use?"*

For students in grades 3-6, 75% answered that they were doing **online gaming** and 25% said they were using **TikTok**.



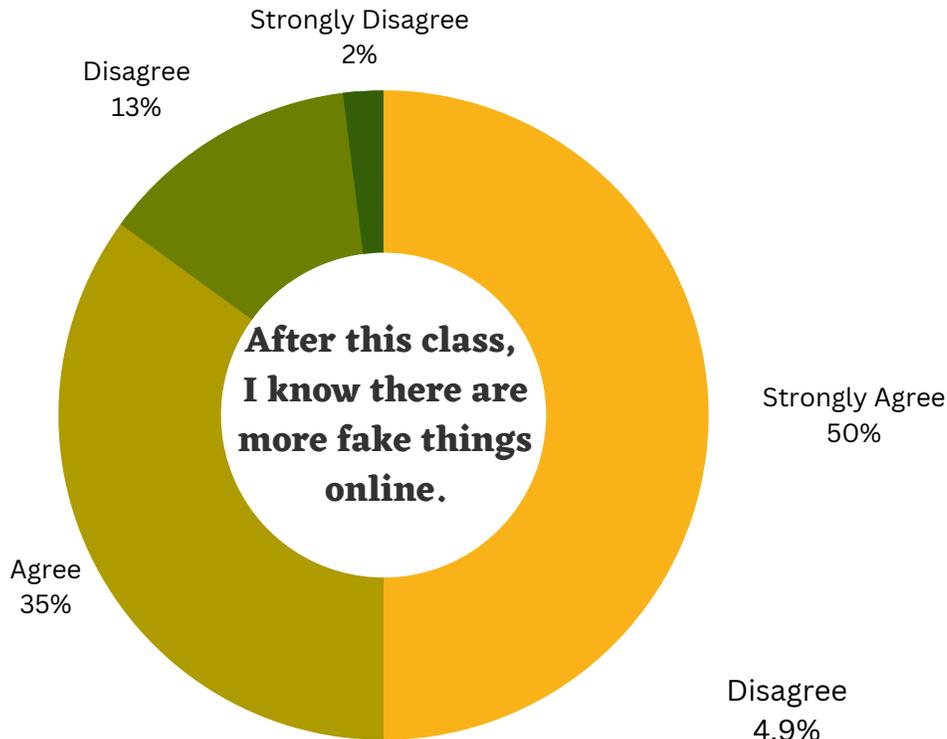
4. Are there any additional comments about the program that you would like to add? I loved this activity a lot



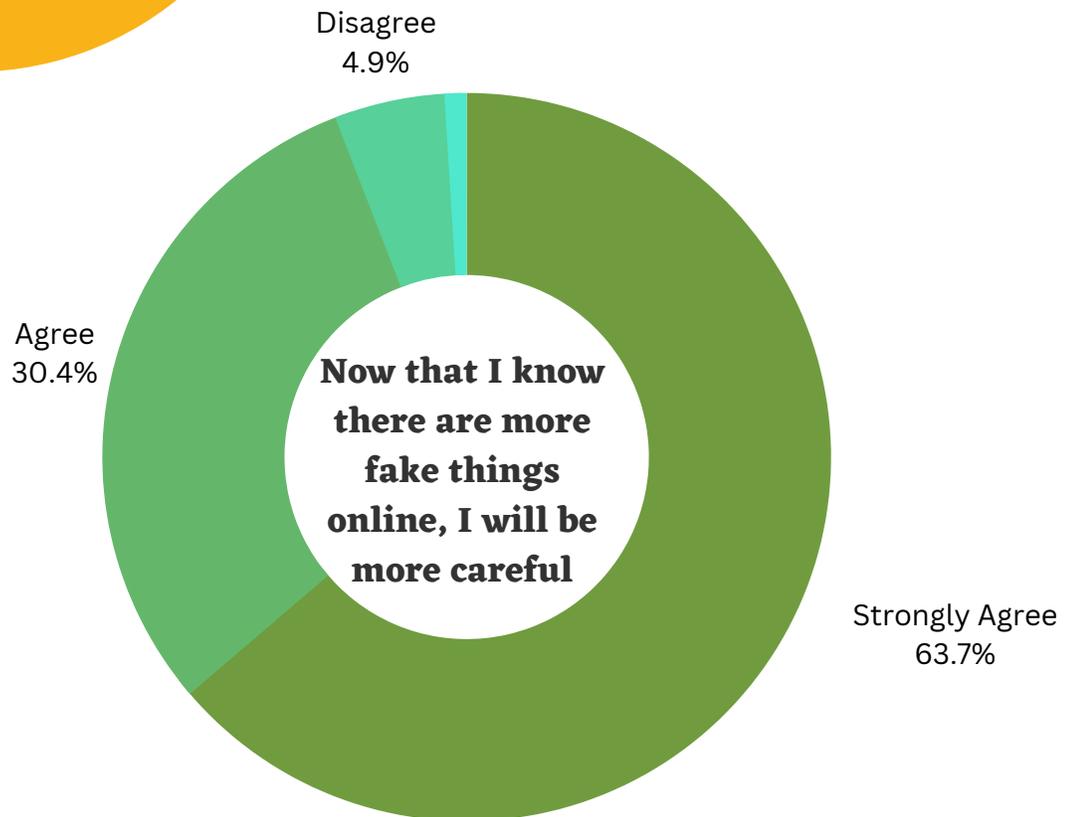
**GREAT  
INFORMATION  
AND GOOD  
PRESENTER!  
THANK YOU!  
-EDUCATOR**

# Elementary

## Media Literacy (3-6)



All of your modules are fantastic and cover a lot of important topics!  
-Educator



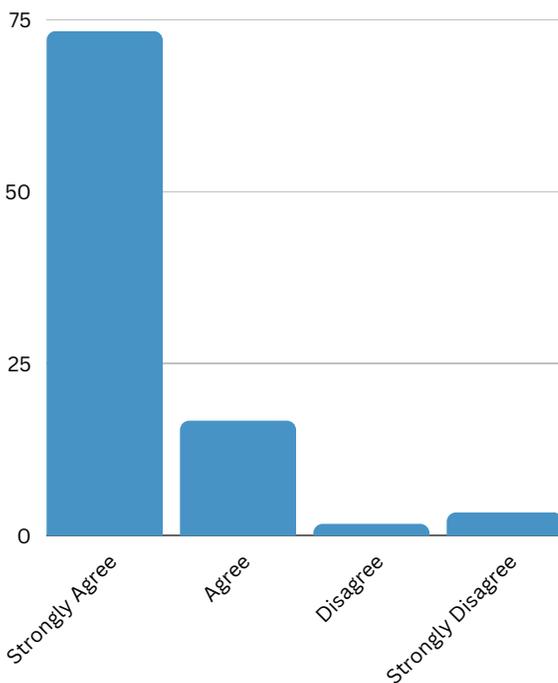
# Secondary

For middle and high school students we teach 8 separate classes. For older students we cover topics like preparing for career and college, creating digital identities and understanding bias online.

Not all adults know how to handle it, besides we are big, we can deal with it on our own  
- 7-12 student



## Media Literacy (7-12)



We asked secondary students:

*"I know there are more fake things online:"*

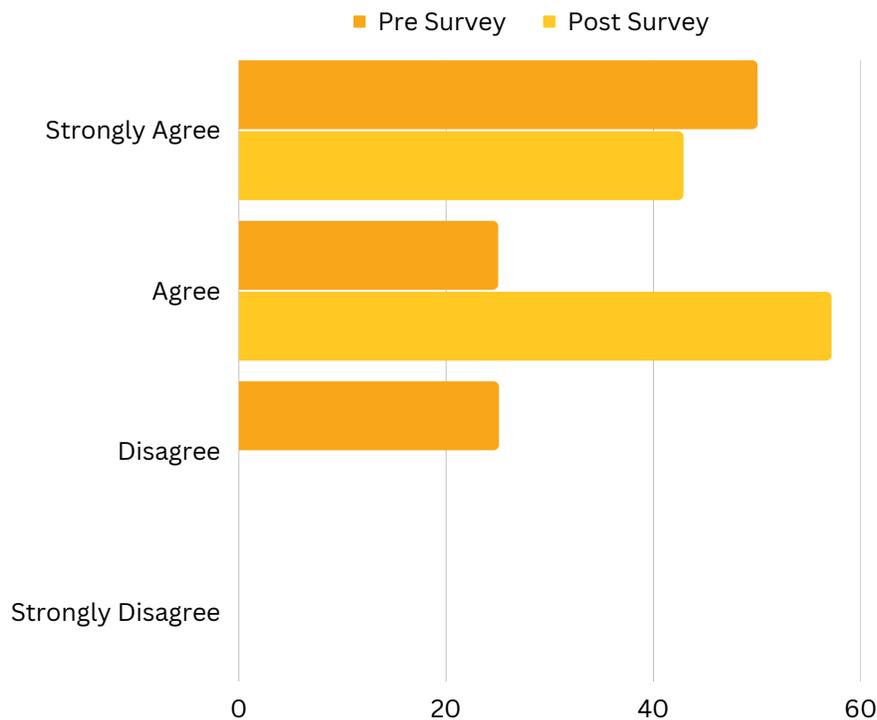
For students in grades 7th-12th; 73.33% **strongly agree**, 16.67% **agree**, 1.67% **disagree**, and 3.33% **strongly disagree**.

# At Risk Teens

Through Title 1 Funding with the Utah Department of Human Services we're able to expand upon our student classes to help youth in state care receive digital literacy and digital citizenship instruction. Students who complete the program receive a certificate. In 2022 we were able to teach multiple units and groups of adolescents under this contract.

## Survey Results

Students agreed or disagreed with the statement: **"I know how to keep myself safe online."**



9. Are there any additional comments about the program that you would like to add?

The person who worked with us was awesome.  $\frac{11}{13}$

# Released in 2022



Welcome to the Respons-Able Educator Course!

Digital Respons-Ability is a research-based provider of digital citizenship education, serving K-12 students, parents and educators since 2016. We have taught tens of thousands of K-12 students in deep-dive, in person digital citizenship classes as the state provider in Utah of online safety education since 2019. Digital Respons-Ability also has a state contract to teach parents how they can help their children navigate technology. We are the only company providing so many direct services and in-person trainings of digital citizenship in the world. Digital Respons-Ability employs research-based digital citizenship curriculum during in-person, classroom-based learning to support SEL and change digital behavior.



## Respons-Able Educator Certification Program (REC)

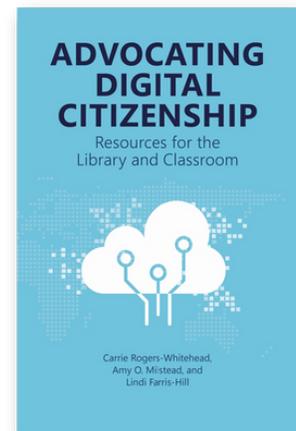
*Digital Respons-Ability's professional development program for educators.*

Designed for secondary educators, school counselors, library and media specialists and anyone who wants to help keep kids safe online.

There are 54 lessons divided into 10 modules with an introductory orientation and downloadable resources.

### Feedback about the REC

I just completed the super-informative course. I think you have done an excellent job with this, Carrie, and it is very helpful for us to be reminded of certain digital terms and vocabulary and to gain a better grasp of their meanings so that we can address them better with our students and in our own lives.



**Published in 2022**

**Advocating Digital Citizenship**  
Written by Carrie Rogers-Whitehead and her co-authors.

**FREE resources for Educators, Parents and Students, covering current Digital Citizenship topics and trends including:**

- Monthly Webinars
- Monthly Blogs
- Monthly Newsletters

# Coming in 2023



## Respons-Able Students Online

We have spent over 200,000 hours working in-person with students since we started. Over the last year we have been working on adapting those in-person classes to an online, self-paced, and interactive classes for students.

In 2023, the Respons-Able Student Online modules (RSO) will be debuted across Utah on Canvas in partnership with the Utah State Board of Education. We're excited to offer another platform an option for digital citizenship learning this year!



the Digital Safety course!

part of 2 courses to help you know how to be safe, healthy, and positive online.

sections below to begin learning more about digital safety.



**PEAKS OF AVALON**  
DIGITAL RESPONS-ABILITY

## Peaks Of Avalon - An Educational Game

*Peaks of Avalon* is designed as supplemental instruction, that supports the elementary student digital citizenship online curriculum. It is accessed through a learning management system and is aimed at Grades 3-6. **Peaks of Avalon** teaches young people digital citizenship using engaging fantasy characters and quests.



# Goals for 2023

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- Continue to collaborate with policy makers like the Utah Governor’s Office and the Digital Wellness, Citizenship, and Safe Technology Commission on issues of digital citizenship, social media and to share resources around the state.
- Advise and contribute nationally to ed tech policy and practice, digital citizenship initiatives and more. Some of those efforts include giving input to the Department of Education’s national educational technology plan, participating with SETDA (setda.org), being a member of ISTE (iste.org)’s Digital Citizenship coalition and growing our new relationship with NCTET (nctet.org), the National Coalition for Technology in Education and Training.
- Expand our outreach and services to Spanish speakers in Utah. In 2022 we hired additional Spanish-speaking staff and have translated more materials into Spanish. In 2023 we plan to translate all our online student curriculum in Spanish and grow our relationships with organizations that serve Utah’s Spanish-speaking community.

