

# JUNIOR TECHNOLOGY CREDENTIALS



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The teacher-developed Junior Microsoft Expert (JME) program is designed to teach elementary students to become innovative 21st-century learners. The JME program helps students gain essential knowledge and skills using Microsoft tools and apps and to provide opportunities to demonstrate mastery through purposeful activities and tasks. Two Microsoft Innovative Education Expert (MIEE) teachers have developed, implemented, and refined a program for students modeled on the Microsoft credential for adults.

### OUTCOMES

- Over 200 3rd-5th grade students certified as Junior Experts in the 2022-2023 school year.
- An additional 50 students achieved a secondary level of certification with the Junior Microsoft Innovative Expert program.
- Program expansion to school and district-wide implementation.

### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Students with computers at home, regardless of socioeconomic status, outscored their peers on the 2019 NAEP mathematics assessment (National Center for Education Statistics, 2019).

“Globally, students performed better in schools where... teachers had skills, professional development, and time to integrate digital devices in instruction” regardless of socioeconomic status, school type, and location (Byrant et al., 2020).

**"Every child needs this opportunity to learn, and do, and become!"**  
- District Director

### INNOVATIONS

- Junior credentialing for young students similar to advanced technology credentials for adult learners
- Curriculum and real-world engagement projects

- designed to show mastery
- Digital badging and celebrations of learning
- Opportunities to advance personalized learning through self-selected projects

### SCALE

The current program has been shared school and district-wide and allows for reproduction and modification with ready-resources. Significant resources are required including 1:1 devices, internet access, Microsoft platforms, and teacher knowledge, however; the program could be adapted to any preferred platforms.

**"I could not believe that my little eight-year-old was able to do more with Microsoft programs than most of the legal professionals I work with... which will help him be successful in his grades to come."**  
- JME Parent

### Lakeside Elementary

Davis School District  
Hollie Fisher,  
Third Grade Teacher

### Kay's Creek Elementary

Davis School District  
Ashtin Johnson,  
Fifth Grade Teacher

The full report is available for download at <https://bit.ly/4aWrxxv8>

# ABOUT THIS REPORT

Utah Leading through Effective, Actionable, and Dynamic (ULEAD) Education was created to find, research, and highlight proven practices in Utah schools for replication statewide. ULEAD partners with practitioners, researchers, and education organizations to develop and curate resources, foster collaboration, and drive systemic change for improved student outcomes. The ULEAD Clearinghouse is a growing repository of innovative, effective, and efficient practice resources and tools to support educators.

A praxis is exercise of a science, art, skill, or the practical application of theory. A ULEAD Practitioner Praxis Report highlights a specific practitioner practice or program that demonstrates promising innovations and has positive outcomes, but may lack one or more fully developed aspects of an Innovative Practice Report. A Praxis may serve as a starting point for further data collection,

practitioner collaboration, additional scaling up, or formal research.

The ULEAD Steering Committee, composed of current Utah educators and stakeholders, informs the focus priorities that ULEAD researches. This report addresses Student Achievement through Strategic Engagement with Technology.

ULEAD collaborates with Institutes of Higher Education and education practitioners to develop reports. This report was developed in partnership with the Utah Teacher Fellows as a culminating activity. Fellows worked to identify outliers and complete field research resulting in thematic evidence of influential practices in Utah public education settings.

## UTAH TEACHER FELLOWS

The Utah Teacher Fellowship Program aims to improve the teaching and learning conditions in Utah's public schools and provide educators in the program with a chance to refine their teacher leadership skills.

## PRACTITIONER RESEARCHER

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Interested in creating a practice report, or know of a successful practice that should be shared? Practitioners, researchers, and graduate students are all welcome partners. Contact us to initiate a report or research partnership: [ulead@schools.utah.gov](mailto:ulead@schools.utah.gov)