



Computers for Youth

CFY/LAUSD Family Broadband Engagement Program

Service Area

Computers for Youth (CFY) is providing an intensive broadband adoption program for more than 16,000 families across the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) during the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years. This effort is funded by the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Service Description

CFY is partnering with high-poverty LAUSD schools (both traditional and charter) and targets the middle school years, as this is the pivotal time when children begin to disengage from academics and parents begin to feel less capable of helping. Specific program components include:

- **Family Learning Workshops** Participating parents and children must attend in-school Saturday Family Learning Workshops where they practice hands-on activities on their CFY Home Learning Centers. Workshops are designed to help parents become stronger learning partners so their children succeed in school and beyond. Families also receive training on broadband options and how to use the Internet safely and productively.

- **Free broadband-ready computers designed as Home Learning Centers** Upon completion of the training, all families receive a computer pre-loaded with CFY's Home Learning Launchpad that includes more than 30 leading software titles. These titles help students develop mastery in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. They also drive creativity, analytical reasoning, and problem-solving; and address accessibility barriers.

- **Software subscriptions** Each family receives subscriptions to engaging math and reading sites including Kaplan's Smart Track and Dreambox. The total value of installed and online software is worth more than \$600 per family.

- **Counseling on broadband access** CFY's bilingual staff provides coaching, encouragement, and advice on enrolling in broadband, including information about available broadband discounts.



- **Teacher Learning Workshops and school support** CFY supports teachers and administrators in our partner schools by delivering high-quality professional training designed to help them connect classroom learning to what becomes a fortified home learning environment.

- **Robust technical support** CFY's bilingual help desk provides families with full 24x7 support. In-school swap-out services are provided for families experiencing technical issues that are not resolvable by our help desk.

Online Access with an Educational Focus *MyHomeLearning.com*

This website provides students, parents and educators with hundreds of high-quality educational activities:

- Curated engaging content organized by grade level, subject, and subject strands as per State and Core Standards
- Special access to free online software subscriptions for CFY families
- Family tips and instructional videos
- "Share Lesson Plan" and "Create Class Playlist" features for educators

About CFY CFY is the nation's leader in improving the Home Learning Environment of low-income school children. CFY works across the country to educate thought leaders and policymakers on the importance of expanding educational priorities to include learning in the home. Since 1999, CFY has developed high-impact interventions to strengthen the Home Learning Environment among middle-school students, with programs now operating in Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Studies confirm that CFY's programs have significantly improved students' test scores and class effort and have increased parents' confidence and involvement. To extend the impact of its work and strengthen the Home Learning Environment field, CFY also operates an Affiliate Network of more than 30 organizations in over 20 states and the District of Columbia.



We Bring Learning Home



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"Dante was really struggling in school and I didn't know how to help. Before [the CFY program], Dante didn't really want to do math. When Dante got the computer, he started being more interested in math. When Dante and I do [homework together] it's still a little hard. But there's a lot of information on the computer, so now it feels easier."

-- CFY Parent

Research on the Value of a Strong Home Learning Environment

Children's academic success is greatly dependent upon their "Home Learning Environment" (defined as having intellectually stimulating resources in the home and parents/guardians who actively serve as learning partners). Specific findings on the value of the Home Learning Environment include:

- The Home Learning Environment is one of the strongest predictors of achievement in reading and math for 10- and 11-year olds. In fact, for math, a strong Home Learning Environment has the same impact as attending a better preschool and primary school.¹
- A case study on low-income students who "succeeded against the odds" showed that what they had in common was a strong Home Learning Environment.¹
- All parents can learn how to strengthen their Home Learning Environment, and the quality and frequency of learning activities in the home is not directly tied to parents' educational attainment or their household income.¹

¹Sylva, K., Melhuish, E., Sammons, P., Siraj-Blatchford, I., & Taggard, B. (2008). Final report from the primary phase: Pre-school, school and family influences on children's development during key stage 2 (age 7-11) (Research Report DCSF-RR061). Sherwood Park, UK: Department for Children, Schools and Families. Retrieved July 13, 2010, from <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR061.pdf>



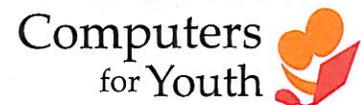
Leveraging Technology to Improve the Home Learning Environment and Student Achievement

A robust intervention of the kind offered by CFY – providing each family with tools and training and helping educators bridge the school-home connection – is an effective way to improve the Home Learning Environment and therefore academic achievement. Because children typically spend only 13% of their time in class, the home represents an enormous untapped potential for children to spend more "time on task", which has been demonstrated to be a key variable in student success.

- A study with Educational Testing Service (ETS) found that CFY's comprehensive program had a positive and statistically significant impact on student math test scores. More specifically, this study, which used logistic regression, found that students' engagement and computer use, particularly their home Internet use and computer use for self-regulated learning, explained 14% of the variance in math test scores over and above prior year scores.²
- An evaluation of the Texas Technology Immersion Pilot – which also involved technology and training for children, teachers, and parents – showed significant positive results. All cohorts showed achievement gains, and fully half of the cohorts showed statistically significant gains in reading and math, with large effect sizes of 8 percent of a standard deviation for reading, and 16 percent to 20 percent for math.³

²Tsikalas, K., Lee, J., & Newkirk, C. (2008). Home computing, school engagement and academic achievement of low-income adolescents: Findings from the CFY intervention. Retrieved July 14, 2010 from http://cfy.org/documents/CFY-ETS_Research_Study_FINAL.pdf

³Shapley, K., Sheehan, D., Maloney, C., & Caranikas-Walker, F. (2009). Evaluation of the Texas Technology Immersion Pilot: Final outcomes for a four-year study (2004-05 to 2007-08). Austin, TX: Texas Center for Educational Research. Retrieved July 13, 2010, from http://www.tcer.org/research/etxtip/documents/y4_etxip_final.pdf



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