



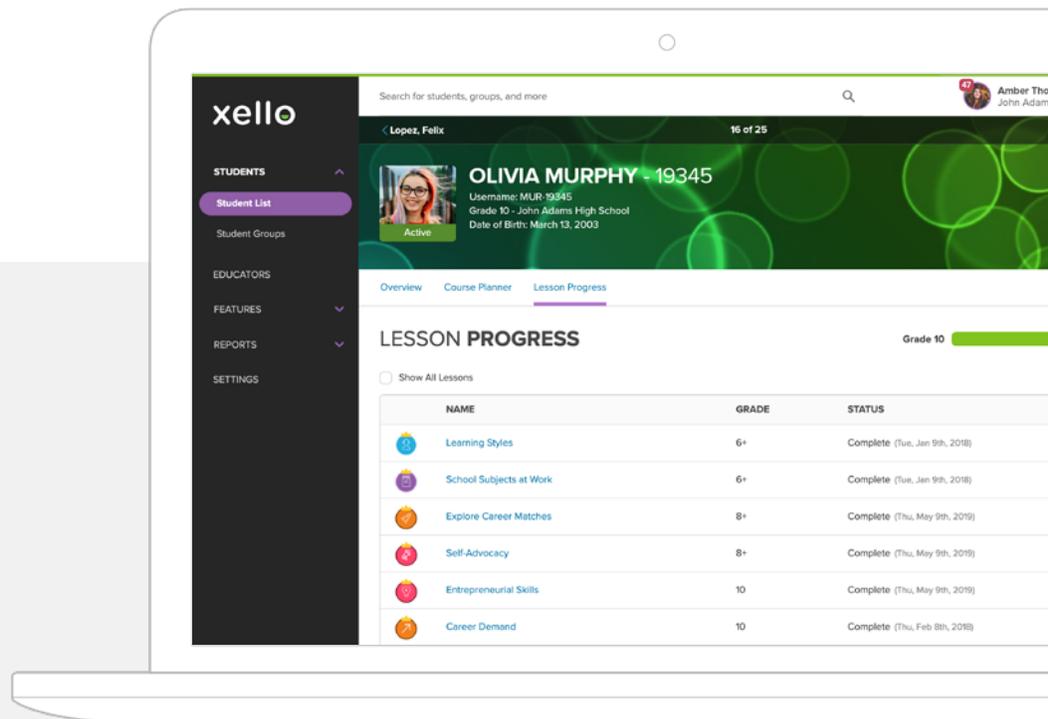
# How to Incorporate Digital Personalized Learning in the Classroom

The Complete Guide to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning



# Personalized Learning 101

Digital personalized learning leverages technology to deliver customized lesson plans for every student regardless of age, background, or skill level. But before we explore the benefits of digital personalized learning and how to implement it in your school, it's helpful to take a step back and get a better understanding of personalized learning itself, and how it translates in today's classrooms.



## A Personalized Learning Primer

Personalized learning is an educational approach that delivers individual lesson plans for each student based on their learning style, interests, strengths, and needs. It encourages students and educators to work closely together to develop a learning plan that both challenges and engages the individual student. Personalized learning leverages tools and techniques to ensure it's possible to deliver individual classroom experiences for all students without overextending educators.

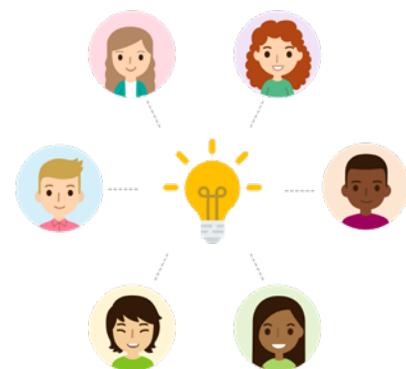


For a deeper understanding, we created an article about [how personalized learning works in the classroom](#) and how it improves the school experience for students, educators and parents.

## Personalized Learning in Practice

It's helpful to get a grasp of what personalized learning looks like in practice. For starters, it's an educational approach that flips the traditional role of a teacher on its head.

A traditional classroom would have the educator standing at the front of the class lecturing to students for the majority of the day. But personalized learning does away with the “one teaching the many” approach. Instead, the educator spends most of their time providing guidance and mentorship to individuals or groups of students working together. With less time spent lecturing to the class, educators are better equipped to ensure every student is progressing as expected, and to address any issues that might arise.



In practice, classrooms that adopt personalized learning are highly collaborative environments: Educators work closely with students to establish lesson plans and to guide them through their work. At the same time, students with similar interests engage in teamwork to tackle projects and improve their interpersonal skills, and students with different skill sets can mentor peers to ensure knowledge is shared among all classmates.

## Reaping the Benefits of a Personalized Approach

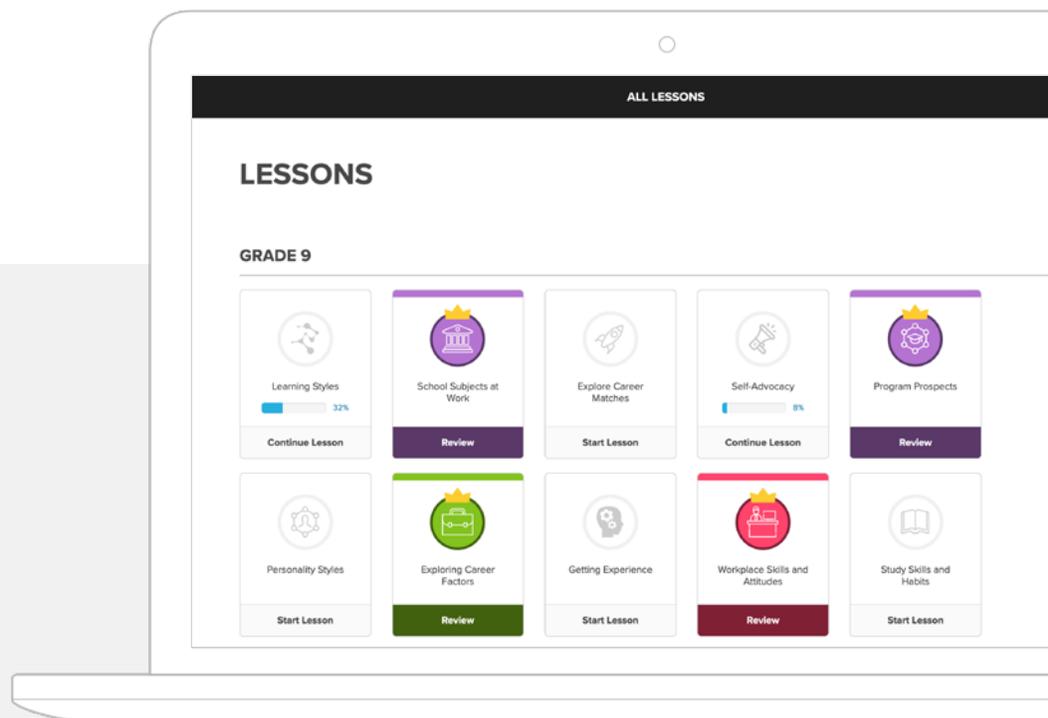
A personalized learning approach to education has many benefits for students, educators, and parents alike. Here are some of the top benefits of adopting personalized learning in the classroom:



- ✓ **It gets students involved:** Students are given ownership over how and what they learn, working closely with educators to create a customized learning plan that fits their interests and needs. This keeps them motivated and engaged in the classroom and into the future.
- ✓ **Students learn at their own pace:** In traditional classrooms, teachers need to “teach to the middle,” or tailor lessons to the average student, which can leave slower learners behind and cause frustration among faster learners. Personalized learning ensures every student learns at the right pace to ensure they fully grasp their lessons.
- ✓ **It teaches teamwork and collaboration:** Students are armed with valuable soft skills when they work closely with peers and teachers: empathy, communication, creativity and leadership are all mastered through personalized learning.
- ✓ **It uses educators’ time more efficiently:** Educators can focus on what’s most important – providing personal guidance to all students and ensuring their learning needs are met. Less time is spent lecturing, grading and evaluating and more time is spent one-on-one with students.
- ✓ **It boosts academic achievement:** Probably the most important benefit of introducing personalized learning in the classroom is that it leads to measurable results: students perform better when they learn at their own pace and focus on their areas of interest. In one recent study, [schools that moved from traditional to personalized learning](#) approaches jumped from below national benchmarks to above national norms on standardized tests in just two years.

# Supercharge Lesson Plans with Digital Personalized Learning

The best way to ensure your school implements personalized learning in an effective, thoughtful and sustainable way is to adopt the right digital tools to help make the transition seamless.



## What is Digital Personalized Learning?

The basics of personalized learning that we outlined in the previous section still apply. Digital personalized learning gets more specific, outlining the way in which technological programs and resources can support and improve personalized learning in the classroom.

Digital personalized learning refers to the tech tools, products, services and models that schools can leverage to create individualized learning plans for each student. In fact, it's the tech element that makes it possible to scale personalized learning across classrooms, schools and even entire school boards, without draining teaching resources.

### The Power of Data

By leveraging digital tools for the classroom—this educational software is often referred to as “EdTech”—educators can save valuable time so they can focus more on personalized learning plans and the development of each student. EdTech programs gather and interpret important data to track the progress of every student. That way, educators spend less time grading and ensuring students are on track to meet mandates.

The data that digital personalized learning platforms collect also allows parents to have a stronger connection to the classroom. Parents can easily log in to see their child's progress, upcoming assignments and long-term goals.



## Tips for Incorporating Digital Personalized Learning in the Classroom



Taking the leap to implement digital personalized learning in the classroom can be a stressful task, but there are steps you can take to make the transition easier for everyone involved. Here are some helpful tips to ensure your journey to adopting digital personalized learning is a smooth one:

### 1. Seek Out Educator Feedback and Buy-In

The first and most important step is to engage the people who will need to champion EdTech everyday: classroom educators. Clearly communicate to teachers why the change to digital personalized learning is needed, and what goals it aims to achieve. Let them know the benefits of a personalized learning approach, and demonstrate in concrete terms how it will help provide a better classroom experience for educators and students. Transparency is the key to these discussions. Let them know you expect there to be some growing pains, as there always are in times of major transition. Outline how educators will be supported as the move to digital personalized learning is implemented.

Be sure to have open, engaging conversations. Ask for feedback along the way, get to know educators' concerns and encourage them to ask questions throughout the process.

### 2. Put together an EdTech Taskforce

As with any new technology, there will be those who are more excited and open than others. Put together a group of educators who can help champion the move to digital personalized learning in the classroom. This taskforce can help develop guidelines for adoption, evaluate different EdTech software and advocate for buy-in along the way. It's no secret that many educators are overworked, so having a taskforce that can help ensure your approach to digital personalized learning will address the needs of educators and help ease their burden is important for successful implementation.

### **3. Identify Student Needs**

The primary goal of digital personalized learning is to improve the academic success of all students. To make sure the EdTech software you adopt drives that goal, you need to evaluate all your options based on student needs. Look at the different learning gaps that currently exist, and make sure the software you're considering can fill those gaps.

Class sizes in the U.S. are growing, with the [average class size](#) up to 23 students in 2017. It's important to ensure your EdTech classroom can deliver a truly individualized classroom experience for every student, with personalized lesson plans that take into account individual interests, strengths, needs and learning styles. That way, students can confidently learn at their own pace and become more engaged by taking ownership over their own education.

### **4. Determine What Success Will Look Like**

It's important to clearly define what success will look like after the adoption of digital personalized learning software. Try to focus on specific outcomes and avoid vague goals. Success won't come overnight, and there can be challenges when you first adopt a new classroom approach. Laying out clear benchmarks can help educators, students and parents understand the steps toward a better, more personal classroom experience.

As part of your plans, make sure you provide opportunities for ongoing professional development so educators get the support they need to fully take advantage of EdTech in the classroom. Evaluate how digital professional learning is working on an ongoing basis, and always welcome feedback from educators so you can adjust your approach as needed.

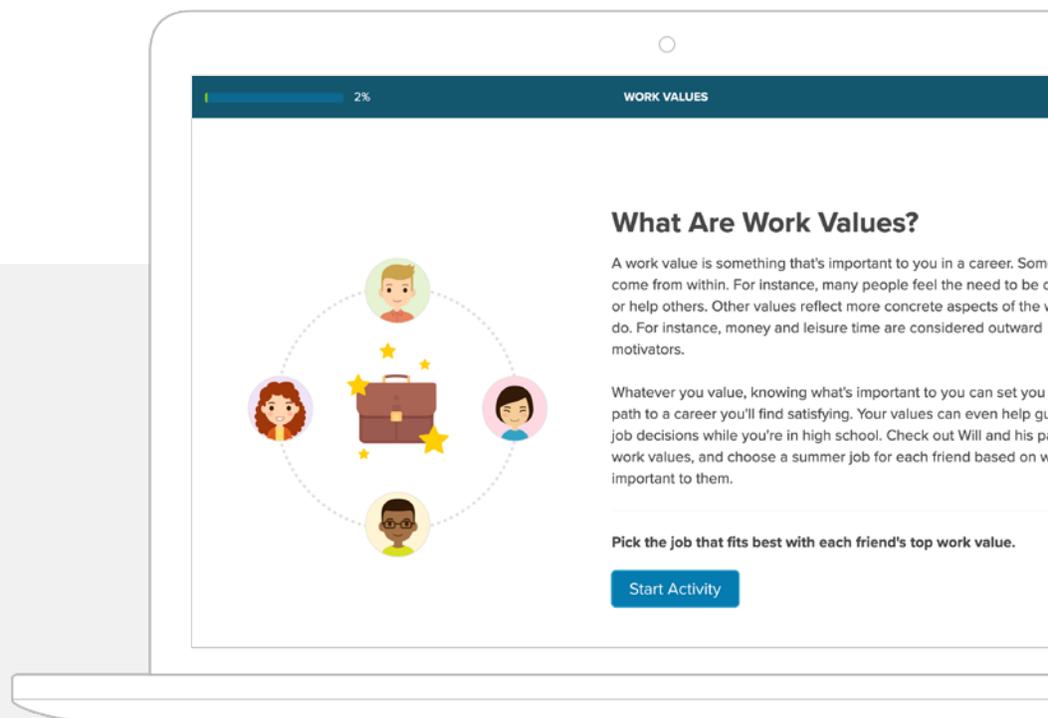
## **5. Develop a Detailed Roll-Out Plan**

Once you've chosen the EdTech software that's right for educators and students, it's time to create a plan that details how digital personalized learning will be implemented. Creating a formal plan that lays out all the necessary steps will help prepare educators and students for the change and provide clear timelines for implementation.

Major change can be daunting for educators, students and parents. By keeping everyone informed, you can help ease stress during this time of transition. Let all key stakeholders know how they can provide feedback or ask questions about the process. Maybe you want to create a specific email address to field questions, or host regular sessions to discuss progress and address concerns. The more you're able to keep everyone informed, the easier the transition to digital personalized learning will be.

# Tools for Digital Personalized Learning Success

Now that you understand the purpose of digital personalized learning and have an action plan for how to implement it in the classroom, you've got all the background knowledge you need to make an informed choice when it comes to EdTech software.



## How Xello Gets Every Student Future Ready, on Their Own Terms

If you're looking for adaptable, scalable EdTech software that supports all your personalized learning needs in the classroom and beyond, Xello offers a proven model for student success.

No matter the grade or the area of focus, Xello delivers personalized learning programs for students from K-12 that's student-centered and grounded in user research. You'll find age-appropriate lessons and assessments to set students on the right path for future readiness. Here's what you can expect to accomplish with the help of Xello:



**Build student's self-knowledge:** Self-awareness and reflection are must-haves for students looking to build soft skills and get motivated for the future. Xello encourages students to explore their skills and interests to get a better sense of how they learn and what motivates them. And because gaining a better understanding of how they learn and work prepares them to be more resilient in the future, self-knowledge is power.



**Explore options for the future:** It's never too early or too late to start planning for the future. Whether that involves examining college options or exploring potential career paths, with the help of Xello students get hands-on experience testing out different journeys. And as a result, students are better prepared and motivated for the future.



**Create a personalized plan:** Xello does away with the one-size-fits-all approach to learning, and instead empowers students at any age and stage to create their own unique educational pathway. Everyone learns differently and at different speeds. Xello does the heavy lifting of allowing students to learn at their own pace, so educators are free to provide individual guidance, rather than being forced to teach to the middle.



**Learn and constantly reassess:** With a custom plan, students can take charge of their own learning by working toward their personal goals, both independently and in partnership with classmates and educators. Xello clearly tracks students' progress and offers continual assessment. That way, students can see their progress and their plans can evolve and grow as needed. Because learning should never be static.

# Prepare Every Student for the Future with Personalized Learning Software from Xello

Xello is the only EdTech software tailored to meet the specific needs of every student and ensure they're all properly prepared for the future, regardless of age, background or ability. It's adaptable enough to help all students create a personalized plan that empowers them to understand and explore their future academic and career possibilities.

Xello prepares K-12 students for success no matter what the future holds, with personalized learning plans that engage students in their own education, build critical life skills and keep them motivated and engaged in the classroom and into the future.

