Padlet

Research Foundation & Logic Model

Authors:

Rachel Schechter, Ph.D.

Aaraam Granera

APRIL, 2025

RESEARCH-BASED
DESIGN
ESSA IV

LXD
RESEARCH

DEMONSTRATES A RATIONALE

LXD Research Recognition for Padlet

Padlet

This product has been rigorously evaluated and is hereby acknowledged for meeting the educational impact criteria of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), warranting a **Level 4** for "**Demonstrating a Rationale**." This recognition is based on its proven effectiveness in enhancing grade-level learning outcomes.

REVIEWED BY THE LXD RESEARCH EXPERT REVIEW PANEL

April 21, 2025

Rachel Schechter, Ph.D.
Founder of LXD Research

DATE

Understanding ESSA Evidence

Educators search for high-quality research and evidence-based interventions to strengthen grant applications, to support comprehensive and targeted schools, or to implement new programming in their schools. Evidence requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) are designed to ensure that states, districts, and schools can identify programs, practices, products, and policies that work across various populations.

Educational programs document their evidence of design, effectiveness, and impact in order to be eligible for federal funding. While there is no singular authority that determines a program's tier, the Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology provides standards to assess the varying levels of strength of research for education products.

The categories for ESSA Evidence are: strong (Tier 1), moderate (Tier 2), and promising (Tier 3) evidence of effectiveness, or demonstrates a rationale to be effective (Tier 4).

This product meets the requirements for Tier 4:

- ✓ Documentation of how the product's design relates to intended outcomes, with corresponding academic, published research

- ✓ Describes the product's features and outcomes in a logic model

- ✓ A study is planned and/or currently underway

- ⭐ A third-party research organization has reviewed the documentation for ESSA validation

When product designers leverage learning sciences to design their programs, educators can better target instruction, and students' skills soar. Through interviews with the product designers, an evaluation of their research-informed activities, and a planning of an efficacy study, this product meets the criteria for LXD Research's ESSA Tier 4 Evidence.

**— Rachel Schechter, Ph.D., Founder of LXD Research**

What is Padlet?

Padlet is an innovative and versatile content creation tool widely trusted by K-12 schools, districts, and universities around the globe. This platform allows students to collaborate effortlessly, whether in person or from remote locations, thanks to its real-time updates and interactive features. With a rich array of templates to choose from and the ability to upload content quickly, Padlet ensures that implementation is both straightforward and engaging.

The platform emphasizes student choice and creativity, empowering learners to express their ideas through text, audio, video, and images. Whether organizing thoughts visually or responding to discussion prompts, Padlet serves as an adaptable space for students to enhance their learning experience. The possibilities for classroom applications are endless, from project-based learning initiatives to collaborative brainstorming.
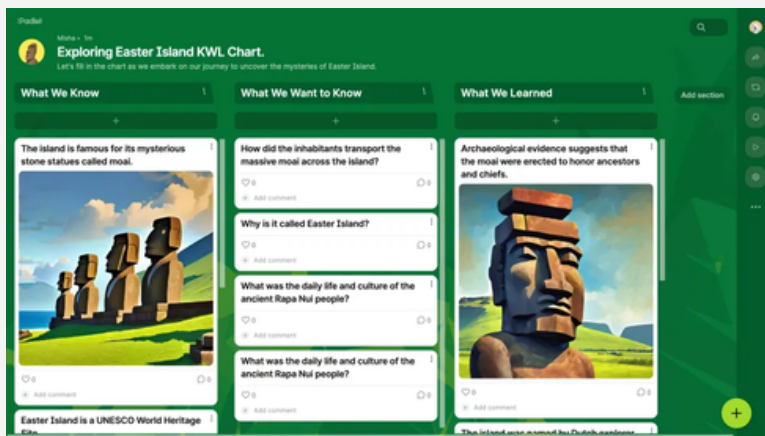
Content creation for collaborative classrooms

- **Easy and Intuitive:** Padlet enables students as well as teachers to publish and share original content effortlessly.
- **Inclusive:** Padlet is designed for students of all ages, skill levels, and abilities.
- **Accessible:** Padlet is available in 45 languages and can be used on mobile devices as well as computers.
- **Collaborative:** Teachers can invite students and colleagues to collaborate on shared projects, assignments, and activities.
- **Flexible:** Users can add various file types, re-organize content, and choose the privacy settings that best fit their needs.

LXDRESEARCH
AT CHARLES RIVER MEDIA
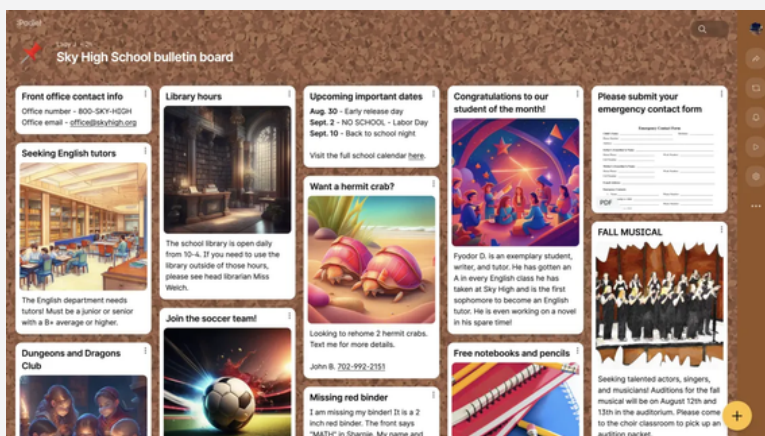
Testimonials

Educators are using Padlet in their classrooms and finding it invaluable for promoting interactive learning and collaboration. Padlet adapts to various teaching styles and enhances lessons. It can transform the classroom into a vibrant hub of knowledge and exploration.

As the Coordinator of Instructional Technology, I manage a lot of tools—but if I were stuck on a desert island of education and could only bring one, it would be Padlet. It's the tool I keep coming back to because it's just so versatile. I mostly use it to run meetings and facilitate PD, and every time I try something else, I end up right back in Padlet. I also really appreciate how responsive the team is to feedback—the new features clearly reflect what educators actually need. Plus, their professional development is top-tier.

Kira Durant
Coordinator of EdTech, Campbell Union High School District

Padlet is a great educational tool used to upload, organize, and share documents with your class and co-workers. This website helps to keep all your records in one place that's accessible to everyone!

@carolinemikovit, Fairfield University
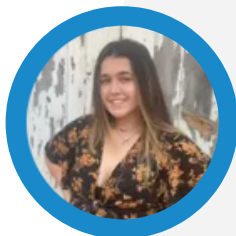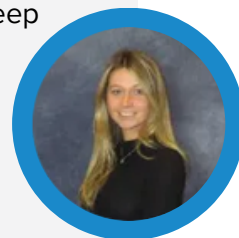
I loved learning about Padlet...I think this is a tool I will use often in my future classroom. I like that you can use it to create full lessons, as well as using it as a class discussion board. It facilitates learning and collaboration!

@MsTMcAllister, Kennesaw State University

Padlet: Foundational Research Summary

Product Background & Overview

In today's digital educational landscape, educators face increasing challenges in fostering meaningful collaboration and engagement while ensuring student privacy and data security. Padlet addresses these challenges by providing a versatile digital platform that enhances collaboration, creativity, and engagement while maintaining strict privacy standards and offering extensive integration capabilities.

Padlet serves as a multimedia learning environment where teachers and students can create, share, and collaborate through various board formats including grids, canvases, timelines, and maps. The platform's design is grounded in research across multiple domains of education and learning science, with particular emphasis on collaborative learning, multimodal expression, and inclusive design principles.

Product Research Basis

Digital Collaboration and Learning Engagement
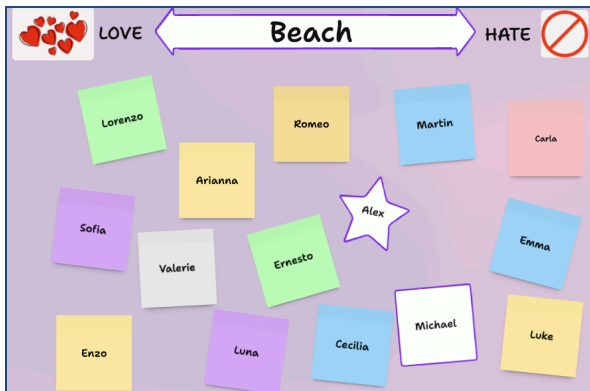
Educational research has consistently demonstrated the powerful impact of collaborative digital environments on student learning outcomes. When students engage in structured online collaboration, they demonstrate improved retention rates, higher engagement, and stronger academic performance (e.g. Cavinato et al., 2021). Digital tools that enable real-time interaction and feedback have been found to enhance not only student engagement but also self-efficacy and persistence in learning tasks (Kim et al., 2011; Slavin & Madden, 2017). Research particularly emphasizes that successful collaboration tools must support both synchronous and asynchronous interaction while providing clear structures for student contribution and feedback (Faber et al., 2017).

Padlet addresses these research-backed principles through a comprehensive suite of collaborative features designed to foster meaningful student interaction and engagement. The platform's interface enables multiple forms of collaboration through shared boards, where

students can contribute ideas using text, images, videos, and other media formats. Color-coded contributions help track individual participation, while immediate feedback mechanisms support the social construction of knowledge. Teachers can structure collaboration through various board layouts and interface customization - from brainstorming walls to organized grids and timelines - ensuring that collaborative activities align with specific learning objectives. The platform supports both real-time classroom collaboration and extended asynchronous projects, with features like commenting, reactions, and multimedia responses enabling rich peer-to-peer interaction while maintaining a structured, moderated learning environment.

Multimedia Learning and Multiple Modalities

Blended learning environments that incorporate multiple modes of content delivery—such as video, text, and interactive features—enhance literacy development and student engagement (Schechter et al., 2015). Students process information more effectively when it is presented through multiple channels (Mayer & Moreno, 2003), with digital tools supporting deeper understanding of concepts through interactive elements and varied presentation formats (Dalby & Swan, 2019). When students can engage with content through different modalities, they show improved comprehension and retention (Faber et al., 2017). Furthermore, multimedia learning environments have been found to increase student engagement and motivation, particularly when they offer opportunities for interactive responses and creative expression (Kumar & Moral, 2022; Çekiç & Bakla, 2021).

Padlet addresses these research-backed needs through its integration of 18 distinct forms of media, enabling teachers to create rich learning experiences that cater to diverse learning styles and preferences. The platform's support for text, images, audio, video, and interactive elements allows for comprehensive content presentation that meets varied learning needs. Through features like voice recordings, video embeds, and interactive polls, Padlet enables students to both consume and create content in multiple formats, fostering active engagement with learning materials while supporting different learning preferences and abilities.
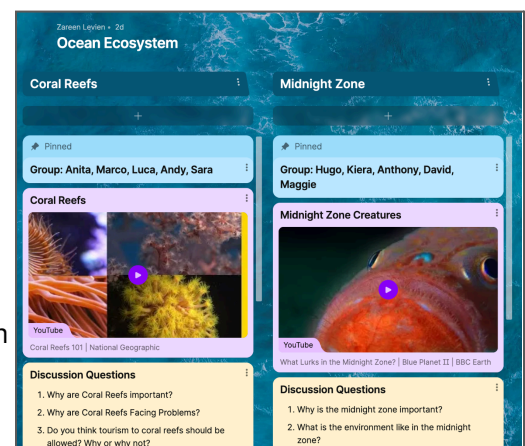
Digital Citizenship and Online Safety

Research has established that effective digital learning environments must prioritize both accessibility and safety to ensure equitable learning outcomes. Online learning resources that don't meet accessibility needs can exacerbate learning gaps (Burdette et al., 2013), while platforms with robust safety features and moderation tools help create secure spaces for authentic student engagement (Carney et al., 2022). Research particularly emphasizes the

importance of providing students with protected spaces for collaboration while teaching responsible digital citizenship (Yao et al., 2024).

Padlet addresses these concerns through a comprehensive approach to digital safety and accessibility. The platform's collaboration with Common Sense Media has resulted in comprehensive training materials that help educators teach responsible digital citizenship. The implementation of AI-powered moderation tools, combined with manual oversight options, creates a secure environment that research has shown is essential for effective online learning (Burdette et al., 2013). School and district-specific accounts allow teachers to keep information private behind school logins. The platform's additional granular privacy controls allow teachers to customize access levels and sharing permissions, ensuring that students can safely engage in collaborative learning while developing important digital citizenship skills.

Differentiated Instruction and Universal Design

Research in educational technology has demonstrated that supporting diverse learners through adaptable learning environments is crucial for equitable educational outcomes. When digital platforms incorporate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles, they significantly improve accessibility and learning outcomes for all students, not just those with identified needs (Wijekumar et al., 2012). Meta-analyses indicate that successful learning platforms must provide multiple means of engagement, representation, and expression to effectively serve diverse student populations (Messer & Nash, 2017). This is particularly critical in digital environments, where research shows that platforms lacking comprehensive accessibility features can inadvertently widen achievement gaps rather than close them (Burdette et al., 2013).

Padlet addresses these research-backed needs through a comprehensive approach to accessibility and differentiation integrated directly into its platform design. The system offers customizable display options, including dark/light modes, adjustable font sizes, and text formatting, support for over 50 languages, screen reader compatibility, and closed captioning for video content. Teachers can differentiate instruction by controlling available media types, setting specific formats for different learning objectives, and adjusting scaffolding levels to meet individual student needs by giving different sections of the Padlet to specific student groups. The platform's universal design approach ensures that all students can access and engage with content effectively, while its flexible interface allows teachers to modify presentation and response formats based on individual student requirements. This implementation of UDL principles extends beyond basic accessibility to create truly inclusive learning experiences that support diverse learning styles, abilities, and preferences.

Blended Learning Supporting Underrepresented Student Population

Research highlights the importance of blended learning environments in expanding access and improving outcomes for historically underrepresented students, including English Language Learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities. Multimodal engagement, differentiated instruction, and collaborative digital platforms can significantly enhance participation and comprehension among these groups (Starks & Reich, 2023; Kasap, 2023).

Blended learning research consistently demonstrates that multimodal content delivery enhances language acquisition and engagement for ELLs. Gamified learning environments significantly improved vocabulary acquisition and retention by providing interactive and visually engaging formats. Similarly, digital tools allowing for text, speech, and image-based interactions help ELLs strengthen literacy skills while reducing cognitive overload (Starks & Reich, 2023).

Padlet's multilingual capabilities and diverse participation options allow students to contribute using text, audio, video, or images. This provides flexible engagement pathways for ELLs, ensuring they can express their understanding in a format that best suits their proficiency level. Additionally, Padlet's ability to integrate with translation tools and support scaffolded discussions helps ELLs build confidence in language use while engaging in collaborative learning.
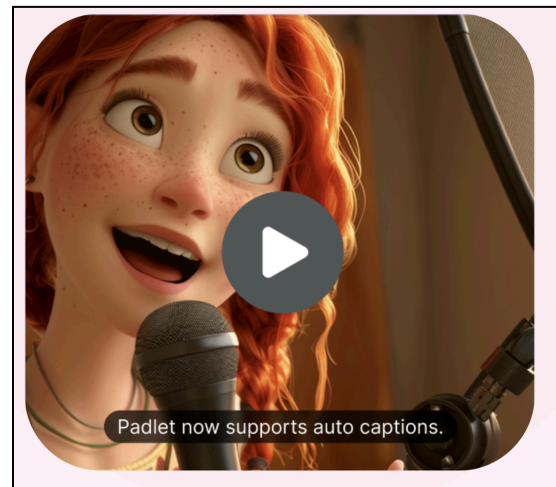
Assessment and Feedback in Digital Environments

Research has established the critical role of diverse assessment strategies and timely feedback in digital learning environments. When students receive immediate feedback from multiple sources, they show increased engagement, higher self-efficacy, and improved learning outcomes (Carney et al., 2022). A comprehensive meta-analysis of formative assessment practices found that combining peer feedback with teacher assessment significantly enhances student achievement across different subject areas (Yao et al., 2024). Furthermore, research indicates that integrating assessment tools directly into learning management systems leads to more consistent feedback practices and higher rates of student engagement with feedback (Faber et al., 2017).

Padlet supports these evidence-based assessment practices through an integrated suite of feedback and grading tools. Students can engage in peer assessment through comments and reactions on shared boards, while teachers can provide individual and group feedback using text,

audio, video or rubric-based evaluations. The platform's built-in gradebook enables systematic tracking of student progress, with grades easily syncing to popular learning management systems including Canvas and Schoology. Features like automated grade passback, customizable rubrics, and moderated peer feedback create a comprehensive assessment environment that aligns with institutional needs while maintaining student engagement. Through this unified approach to assessment, Padlet ensures that feedback is more frequent and becomes a natural part of the learning process rather than an isolated activity.

Implementation and Effectiveness Research on Padlet

Multiple studies have demonstrated Padlet's effectiveness in enhancing student engagement and learning outcomes. Research by Rashid et al. (2019) found that 79.5% of students reported increased motivation to complete tasks and 61% experienced enhanced group interaction when using Padlet. Similarly, Zainuddin et al. (2020) showed that over 82% of students felt more actively engaged in learning when using Padlet, with 77% reporting improved collaboration with group members. Shuker and Burton (2021) highlighted Padlet's particular strengths in enabling peer learning and self-assessment through students' immediate access to classmates' responses. The platform has been shown to reduce participation barriers and encourage whole-class engagement (Fuchs, 2014), especially for students who may be reluctant to speak up in traditional classroom settings (Ellis, 2015). Dianati et al. (2020) found that Padlet effectively supports social construction of knowledge through collaborative learning, while Beltrán-Martín (2019) demonstrated its value in facilitating real-time interaction and engagement during class activities.

Conclusion

Padlet's design and functionality are firmly grounded in educational research across multiple domains. The platform effectively combines established pedagogical principles with innovative technology to create an engaging, inclusive learning environment. As educational technology continues to evolve, Padlet's research-based approach positions it as a valuable tool for supporting modern teaching and learning practices.

The platform's success in implementing research-based features while maintaining usability demonstrates its potential to support meaningful learning experiences. Ongoing research and development continue to inform updates and improvements, ensuring that Padlet remains aligned with current educational best practices and emerging research findings.

Padlet Logic Model

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In today's digital educational environment, K-12 and university classrooms face challenges in fostering meaningful collaboration, creativity, and engagement while ensuring student privacy and data security. Schools need a versatile digital platform that not only enhances collaboration and creativity but also provides robust privacy controls and seamless integration with existing school systems. Padlet addresses these challenges by providing a secure, versatile platform that enhances collaboration, creativity, and engagement while maintaining strict privacy standards and offering extensive integration capabilities.

RESOURCES

What resources are or could be available?

- A comprehensive platform featuring pre-designed templates, multimedia capabilities, real-time collaboration tools, and AI-powered content generation
- Multiple authentication options and customizable privacy settings with SSO integration
- WCAG-A accessibility compliance features and universal design elements and WCAG-AA compliant on Padlet boards on the web
- Integration capabilities with existing systems (Google, Microsoft, Clever, LMS systems)
- Grade passback and assessment features
- Dedicated customer support and AI-powered moderation tools

STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

What will the activities, events, and such be?

- Teachers leverage differentiated instruction through breakout links and custom content settings
- Students engage in multimedia content creation and collaborative projects
- Teachers and students use multimedia tools for dynamic, engaging content creation
- Schools implement safe digital citizenship practices through moderation tools
- Teachers utilize analytics and assessment features for targeted feedback
- Teachers receive ongoing support through resources and training sessions

OUTPUTS

What are the initial products of these activities?

- Students practice 21st-century skills, including teamwork, communication, and digital literacy
- Students demonstrate creativity and self-expression through multiple modalities
- Students demonstrate digital citizenship through moderated content creation
- Teachers efficiently track and assess student progress through integrated grade book
- Teachers increase their confidence using Padlet as a comprehensive digital teaching tool

LXD**RESEARCH**
AT CHARLES RIVER MEDIA

SHORT-TERM AND INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

- Students demonstrate increased participation and receive targeted feedback through collaborative tasks
- Student work reflects deeper understanding through interactive, multimedia learning
- Students demonstrate increased digital literacy skills and responsible online behavior
- Teachers successfully integrate Padlet into lesson planning and classroom activities
- Teachers are better equipped to meet diverse learner needs through multimedia capabilities
- Schools report higher engagement in digital learning activities

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

- Students have increased motivation in learning, expressing their ideas through multimedia tools
- Teachers demonstrate mastery in creating student-centered, technology-enhanced learning environments
- Schools develop comprehensive digital learning ecosystems
- Teachers have increased access to collaborative learning for all students
- Schools are better able to prepare students for future-ready skills

ASSUMPTIONS

- Access to devices (laptops, tablets, smartphones)
- Reliable internet connectivity
- Training opportunities for instructional coaches and teachers
- Administrative commitment to integration and support
- School district data privacy requirement alignment
- Technical support infrastructure

2

References

Beltrán-Martín, I. (2019). Using Padlet for collaborative learning. In *HEAd'19: 5th International Conference on Higher Education Advances* (pp. 1-8). https://doi.org/10.4995/head19.2019.9188

Burdette, P. J., Greer, D. L., & Woods, K. L. (2013). K-12 online learning and students with disabilities: Perspectives from state special education directors. *Journal of asynchronous learning networks*, *17*(3), 65-72.

Carney, E. A., Zhang, X., Charsha, A., Taylor, J. N., & Hoshaw, J. P. (2022). Formative assessment helps students learn over time: Why aren't we paying more attention to it? *Intersection: A Journal at the Intersection of Assessment and Learning, 4*(1).

Cavinato, A. G., Hunter, R. A., Ott, L. S., & Robinson, J. K. (2021). Promoting student interaction, engagement, and success in an online environment. *Anal Bioanal Chem* 413, 1513–1520 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00216-021-03178-x

Çekiç, A., & Bakla, A. (2021). A review of digital formative assessment tools: Features and future directions. *International Online Journal of Education and Teaching (IOJET), 8*(3), 1459-1485.

Dalby, D., & Swan, M. (2019). Using digital technology to enhance formative assessment in mathematics classrooms. *British Journal of Educational Technology, 50*(2), 832-845. https://doi.org/10.1111/bjet.12606

Dianati, S., Nguyen, M., Dao, P., Iwashita, N., & Vasquez, C. (2020). Student perceptions of technological tools for flipped instruction: The case of Padlet, Kahoot! and Cirrus. *Journal of University Teaching & Learning Practice, 17*(5), Article 4.

Ellis, D. (2015). Using Padlet to increase student engagement in lectures. In *European Conference on eLearning (ECEL)* (pp. 195-198).

Faber, J. M., Hans, L., & Visscher, A. J. (2017). The effects of a digital formative assessment tool on mathematics achievement and student motivation: Results of a randomized experiment. *Computers & Education, 106*, 83-96. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2016.12.001

Fuchs, B. (2014). The writing is on the wall: Using Padlet for whole-class engagement. *LOEX Quarterly, 40*(4), 7-9.

Kasap, E. (2023). The effects of using Kahoot! as a gamified learning tool on secondary school students' English vocabulary acquisition. *Interactive Learning Environments, 31*(4), 687-705. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11423-023-10045-6

Kumar, R., & Moral, S. (2022). Formative Assessment Tools for Effective Classroom. *i-manager's Journal on School Educational Technology, 17*(4), 1-10. https://doi.org/10.26634/jsch.17.4.18926

Kim, J. S., Samson, J. F., Fitzgerald, R., & Hartry, A. (2011). Can a mixed-method literacy intervention improve reading achievement of low-performing elementary school students? Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 33(4), 456-475.

Mayer, R. E., & Moreno, R. (2003). Nine ways to reduce cognitive load in multimedia learning. Educational psychologist, 38(1), 43-52.

Messer, D., & Nash, G. (2017). An evaluation of the effectiveness of a computer-assisted reading intervention. *Journal of Research in Reading, 40*(2), 235-253. https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9817.12081

Rashid, A. A., Yunus, M. M., & Wahi, W. (2019). Using Padlet for collaborative writing among ESL learners. *Creative Education, 10*(3), 610-620. https://doi.org/10.4236/ce.2019.103044

Schechter, R., Macaruso, P., Kazakoff, E. R., & Brooke, A. L. (2015). Exploration of a blended learning approach to reading instruction for low SES students in early elementary grades. *Computers in the Schools, 32*(3-4), 183-200. https://doi.org/10.1080/07380569.2015.1100652

Shuker, M. A., & Burton, R. (2021). Educational technology review: Bringing people and ideas together with Padlet. *Journal of Applied Learning & Teaching, 4*(2), 121-124. https://doi.org/10.37074/jalt.2021.4.2.9

Slavin, R. E. (2011). Instruction based on cooperative learning. *Handbook of research on learning and instruction*, 358-374.

Slavin, R. E., & Madden, N. A. (2017). *Success for All: Improving reading outcomes through whole-school reform*. What Works Clearinghouse. https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/WWC/InterventionReport/672

Starks, P., & Reich, J. (2023). Barriers and enablers of technology use in special education: Equity concerns in blended learning. *Educational Technology Research & Development, 71*(2), 112-136. https://doi.org/10.1080/10494820.2023.2180675

Wijekumar, K., Meyer, B. J. F., & Lei, P. (2012). Large-scale randomized controlled trial with 4th graders using intelligent tutoring of the structure strategy to improve nonfiction reading comprehension. *Educational Technology Research and Development, 60*(6), 987-1013. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11423-012-9263-4

Yao, Y., Amos, M., Snider, K., & Brown, T. (2024). The impact of formative assessment on K-12 learning: A meta-analysis. *Educational Research and Evaluation, 29*(7-8), 452-475. https://doi.org/10.1080/13803611.2024.2363831

Zainuddin, N. M. M., Azmi, N. F. M., Yusoff, R. C. M., Shariff, S. A., & Hassan, W. A. W. (2020). Enhancing classroom engagement through Padlet as a learning tool: A case study. *International Journal of Innovative Computing, 10*(1), 49-57.

LXDRESEARCH
AT CHARLES RIVER MEDIA

LXD Research is an independent research firm that evaluates educational programs with ESSA-aligned methods.

Learn more at www.lxdresearch.com

Padlet

For additional information about Padlet visit:

www.padlet.com