



Center for New Americans

A Community-Based Education and Resource Center for
Immigrants and Refugees in Western Massachusetts



Emerging Literacy and ipads

Teaching English to immigrants, refugees,
and asylum seekers using tablets



Center for New Americans

A Community-Based Education and Resource Center for Immigrants and Refugees in Western Massachusetts

We have been welcoming and serving immigrants since 1992.



What We Offer

Free classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), face-to-face and online



What We Offer

Our face-to-face classes are offered in 3 program sites - Amherst, Greenfield, and Northampton - that span 2 counties



What We Offer

Career preparation and support

Healthcare jobs training



Support services, such as introductions to community resources for healthcare and housing

What We Offer

Citizenship and immigration legal services

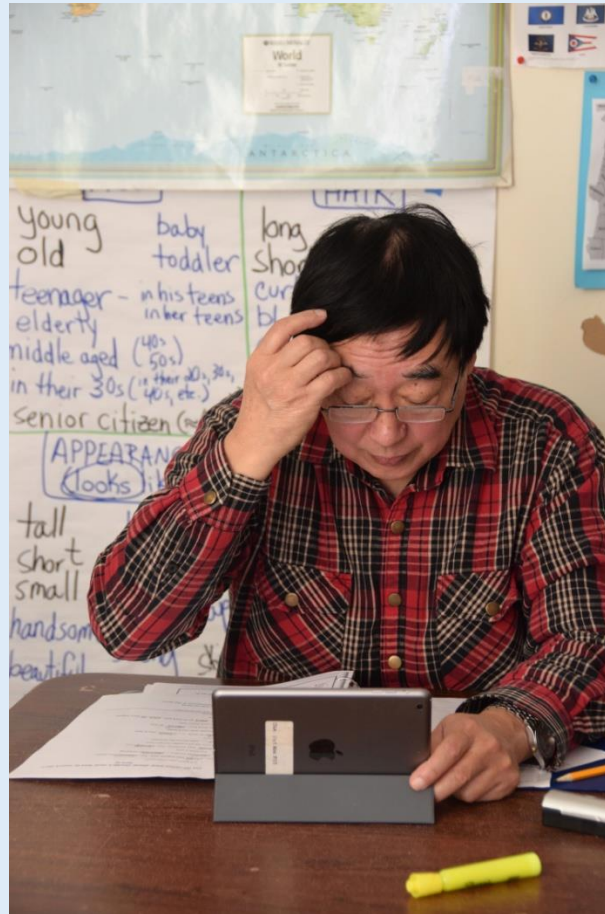


Our constituents:

- Immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers from Ecuador, Cambodia, Tibet, Cape Verde, Morocco, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, China, Haiti, Mexico, Guatemala, the Democratic Republic of Congo and many more places
- About 130 students annually



Our Project: Teach English using tablets



Project Goals

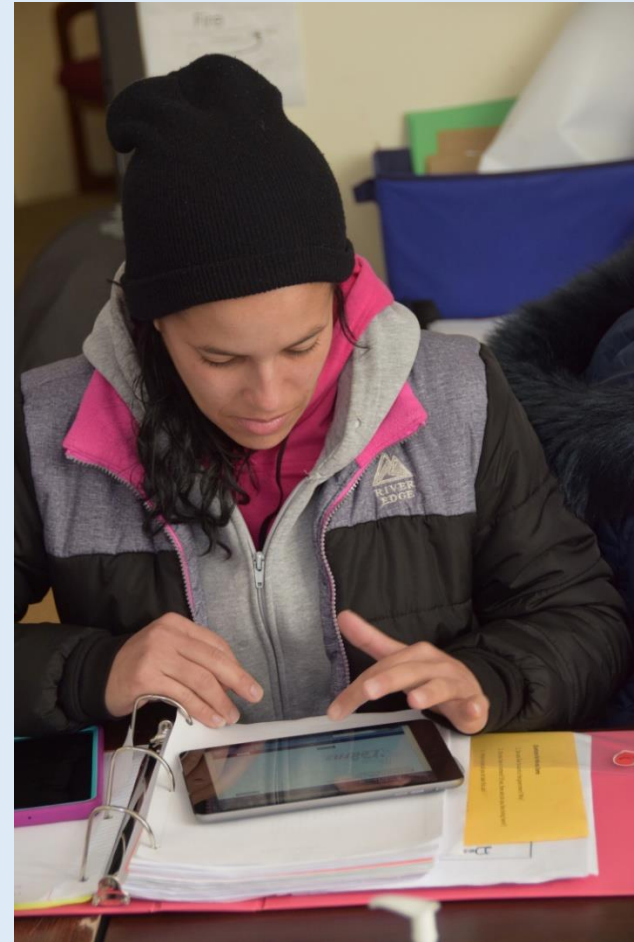
- Enhance our organization's capacity to serve refugees and immigrants
- Assist our increasing number of pre-literate students to integrate effectively into their new community
- Build students' digital literacy



Project Implementation

Fall, 2019:

- Purchased tablets
- Loaded programs onto them
- Organized PD sessions for teachers
- Developed curriculum for all levels



Our Technology Coordinator rotated between classrooms to assist



And then the pandemic hit

All classes and services migrated online



Many students had no devices to connect

But they knew how to use tablets which we loaned to them



Level 1-2 Curriculum

* Quizlet

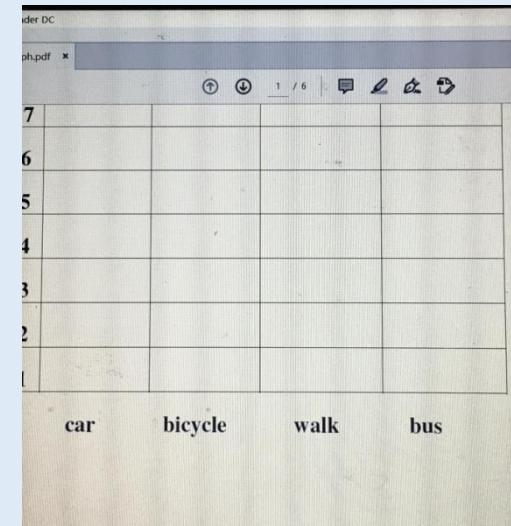
- * teachers introduced this site pre-Covid and resumed use online
- * created flashcards to teach vocabulary paired with images

* Graphing

- * teachers used a graphing program to visually represent students' transportation to school

• Learning Chocolate

- * . <https://www.learningchocolate.com/> gives teachers visual tools



The image shows a screenshot of a graphing tool interface. It features a grid with 7 rows and 4 columns. The rows are numbered 1 through 7 on the left side. The columns are labeled 'car', 'bicycle', 'walk', and 'bus' at the bottom. The grid is currently empty, and the interface includes a toolbar with various icons at the top.

7				
6				
5				
4				
3				
2				
1				
	car	bicycle	walk	bus

Level 3-4 Curriculum

* Ventures Textbook Online Edition

* teachers use the Ventures textbook series and follow up with interactive online lessons:

<https://www.cambridge.org/us/esl/venturesadulted/venturesarcade/>

Level 5-6 Curriculum

* Continuing our Poetry Project

- * teachers built on last year's poetry project

- * students read a poem about the immigrant experience and presented it at *Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts*, our annual artistic showcase.

- https://zoom.us/rec/share/tMlKcu7A13tOU53M9kflRZ4_ApTYeaa81iMY-aIPmkoIMugTIF6A7cO0Ey70nTJ8

Pandemic Responses

We delivered tablets to students who had no devices

We purchased internet hotspots

Measuring Success

Approximately 80% of our students attended class after we migrated online

Approximately 50% of our students registered a learning gain this past year

Challenges

- Reversing the assumption that low-literacy students could not use technology
- Reversing the assumption that students need to learn to read and write in English using pencil and paper before they can access computers
- Reversing the assumption that digital literacy is out of the reach of beginner-level students

Questions?

