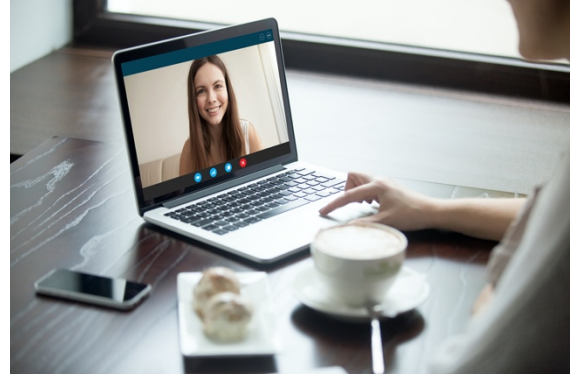


Challenge

At Florida Virtual School® (FLVS®), World Languages are among our most popular courses. However, students told us they were anxious before and during chats with their teachers in the target language. Even though they were making a genuine effort to speak fluently, they often were not satisfied with their assessment results, which resulted in loss of enthusiasm and/or withdrawing from the course. Additionally, teachers relayed they were spending more time on basic pronunciation with their students rather than holding rich conversations with them. This made attaining National World Language proficiency levels a challenge.



With Simply Speak, students improve their World Language proficiency by practicing speaking the language in a comfortable, judgement-free learning environment.

Solution

FLVS created Simply Speak, a speech practice tool that provides an interactive way to improve language pronunciation and speaking skills. The tool allows students to record themselves saying words and phrases and gives instant feedback on pronunciation. It shows their current level of proficiency and highlights mispronounced or missing words so they know where they can improve.

Simply Speak is embedded directly within FLVS courses, giving students the flexibility to work on language skills on their own time without needing to access any additional software. This pressure-free tool allows students to practice independently before using their new skills in front of their teacher and other students.



Learning Impact Outcome

With Simply Speak, FLVS has been able to meet our students' needs by providing them a tool that lets them have fun while they practice speaking a World Language in a comfortable learning environment. The feedback they receive has helped them improve their World Language proficiency and has allowed them to hold richer conversations with their teachers with more confidence.

Return on Investment

Simply Speak has been so successful in our Spanish Suite that we've also added it to French 1 and French 2. Also, as the tool is so flexible, it can be used in more than 100 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, Russian, and even Zulu. Using Google Analytics to track the usage of the tool, we see that to date, Simply Speak has been used by our students nearly 16,000 times.