



# Accelerating Dynamic Learning

Helping educators create growth  
for every student



# Executive summary

The K–12 education paradigm is shifting. Our students are not the same as they were just five short years ago, and educators face challenges that were unheard of as we entered 2020. As an education community, we have changed and adapted. It is from this vantage point that an ideal future state for K–12 learning comes into view—one that seamlessly integrates the very best of technology with the very best of in-class instruction and engagement to facilitate adaptive learning and elevate the potential of all of us.

We believe that this approach is the key to more personalized and dynamic classroom experiences and, ultimately, better student outcomes. Positive teacher-student interactions and the culture of the classroom are irreplaceable components of the K–12 education experience. As a result, we see the role of technology as supporting educators—with the goal of embracing the valuable insights that purpose-built solutions can deliver, eliminating the manual sifting of data, *reducing* time spent on ministerial tasks and *increasing* time spent with each student, and integrating high-quality instructional solutions to deliver on the promises of personalized learning.



**Together, we have an opportunity to transform education. By supporting the critical connection between teachers and students with purposeful technology, we can create lasting momentum and elevate the potential of all.**

Jack Lynch, CEO





## Growth in motion

Just as there isn't one kind of student, there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach to education. Educators understand this premise and need an intuitive digital ecosystem that helps drive momentum, growth, and continuous learning for every student.

This new paradigm also demands a more simplified classroom with technologies that streamline and elevate everyday interactions into everyday engagement. This means integrated tools that encompass the full breadth of classroom instruction, creating meaningful connections between assessment and curriculum, uncovering predictive and proactive insights and recommendations that further growth at the right starting point and pace for each student – right at the teacher's fingertips. It means leveraging intelligent data to benchmark growth, identify needs, and support better decision making. It also means creating efficiencies for

educators, freeing up time and resources normally spent on repetitive and time-consuming tasks so that they can engage more deeply with students. Taken together, these elements will help us realize the true promise of differentiated teaching and learning, which we have long imagined as critical to education's future state.

**Technology, when created and implemented with purpose, can provide educators with a deeper understanding of what moves each student forward, in turn accelerating learning.**

# The dynamic classroom

Today's teachers use an average of 84 tools, with districts averaging 2,591 for the 2022–23 school year.

That number alone is mind-boggling, and becomes untenable when you consider the fact that in nearly every case, these tools are not integrated, are not evidence-based, and fail to provide the insights needed for personalization. They are, at best, band-aids for the larger challenge of advancing learning and growth for all students. **All learners deserve access to high-quality instructional materials that are grounded in research, culturally relevant, and proven effective.** It can be immensely challenging to determine whether such disparate solutions are effective, and despite the good intentions behind these tools, the question now is, how can we do better?

If we imagine the ideal classroom and learning environment, we can see important foundational criteria for technology. The next generation of solutions must be:

- **Engaging and easy to use:** intuitive for both educators and students
- **Evidence-based:** powered by high-quality instructional materials that are research-backed, efficacious, and proven to improve learning outcomes
- **Purpose-built:** created with well-defined objectives so that features and functionality are relevant and valuable
- **Efficient:** eliminating or reducing low-value, time-consuming tasks for teachers and thus enabling more time with students
- **Integrated across instructional routines:** eliminating redundancies and establishing simplicity and coherence across whole-class instruction and targeted group instruction, as well as personalized learning practice to advance the learning of each student.

At the same time, teaching and learning is rooted in social relationships. **Research shows time and again that meaningful student-teacher relationships are transformative.** The interrupted learning of the pandemic validated this key success factor. Students learn more—and more efficiently—in a physical classroom setting with their peers and with a teacher that can spend one-on-one time with them.

This fact crystallizes the highest and best use of technology in K–12 education. Amidst the larger paradigm shift, what becomes clear is that while technology alone can be isolating, **we can benefit from a best-of-both-worlds approach that fuses the power of technology with the tried-and-true social gathering of the classroom—“high tech” working in a mutually reinforcing way with “high touch.”**

## Implications for educators

**Educators are the linchpin of learning. Technology cannot—and should not—be used as a replacement, but rather as enabler.**

With the right technology, products, and solutions, educators can:

- Leverage data and insights for greater personalization;
- Reduce or eliminate mundane, time-consuming tasks;
- Reduce reporting time and establish consistent benchmarks both school- and district-wide;
- Advance their own professional development through easy-to-access training;
- And—most importantly—spend more time with students

To fulfill these promises, we need to place educator experiences at the center of our design process and create technology that is purpose-built to support them. This central partnership with teachers will help shape the future of the ideal classroom and our next generation of learners.

## Impact on students

**Today’s students (and many educators) are digital natives, unafraid to try new things and expecting consumer-like interactions, ease of use, and engagement. To meet these expectations, classroom technology that enhances the digital experience—and consequently, engagement and learning—is essential.**

Instead of relying on technology exclusively for personalized learning and practice, we can leverage technology to support personal interaction, the hallmark of the classroom learning experience, and open up new pathways for connection and engagement in the broader context of instruction. Think of whole-class discussions, pair and share activities, and group learning activities, as well as personalized practice—each learning activity is orchestrated easily by a teacher to work in concert with one another for optimal effect in student engagement and outcomes.

**For those of us at the forefront of edtech innovation, our goals should be multifaceted—not just to advance learning, but also to bolster engagement and inspiration for learners.** The right technology, steeped in research, can put student growth in continuous motion, where mastery of new skills is rewarded and setbacks are supported with diverse, personalized approaches to problem-solving.

For instance, purposeful technology can facilitate and support the classroom experience in innovative ways, creating new contexts for interactive student engagement. Robust, intelligent classroom management solutions make it easier for educators to align instructional components like assignments, discussions, and assessments to foster effective whole-class learning and help manage the flow of a lesson.

Take an already highly efficacious instructional strategy like the “Pair and Share,” where peers discuss relevant classroom content with one another. It can be difficult for educators to gauge student understanding in real time, when 15 pairs of students are having conversations simultaneously. Summarization technology allows teachers to quickly collect and digest student feedback and mastery, in turn allowing for more focused, real-time personalization. Here, generative AI can assist in creating additional opportunities for immersive learning and student-teacher-peer communication and collaboration.



## The role of AI

There is tremendous hype around the potential and drawbacks of generative AI, and for good reason. While it is only one piece of the edtech puzzle, when applied with purpose it can be a powerful tool that supports—not replaces—educators, and accelerates learning outcomes.

From reducing time spent on mundane tasks to providing intelligent insights regarding student performance and areas of challenge, AI has already made a substantial impact on many classrooms and will continue to do so well into the future. AI's ability to assess the individual strengths and weaknesses of each student and make recommendations can change the trajectory of learning.

The ability to do this—at scale—is transformational, and even more so in its ability to free teacher time to be more available to fill in the gaps, encourage effort, and ensure that progress is made.

For example, it takes roughly 15 hours to read and grade 30 two-page student papers. The teacher must evaluate each student's understanding of the subject matter, basic writing concepts related to organization, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Within each of these areas are numerous signals that must be assessed: Is the piece repetitive? Does it cover all the key elements of the topic? Are the sentences coherent and logical? Does the student have the relevant mastery reflective of their grade expectations? If not, is this due to lack of skill or lack of time spent?

Enter purposeful AI. AI-powered tools can read each paper and quickly assess the quality of content from both a subject-level and grammar-level perspective. Educators can review and adjust these AI-originated comments, and those 15 hours become less than two. This frees 13 hours for teachers to spend with students, focusing on the crucial question: what does each student need to succeed?

**GenAI has the potential to advance students' progress and empower educators when guided by aligned, powerful assessments and embedded in high-quality curriculum.**

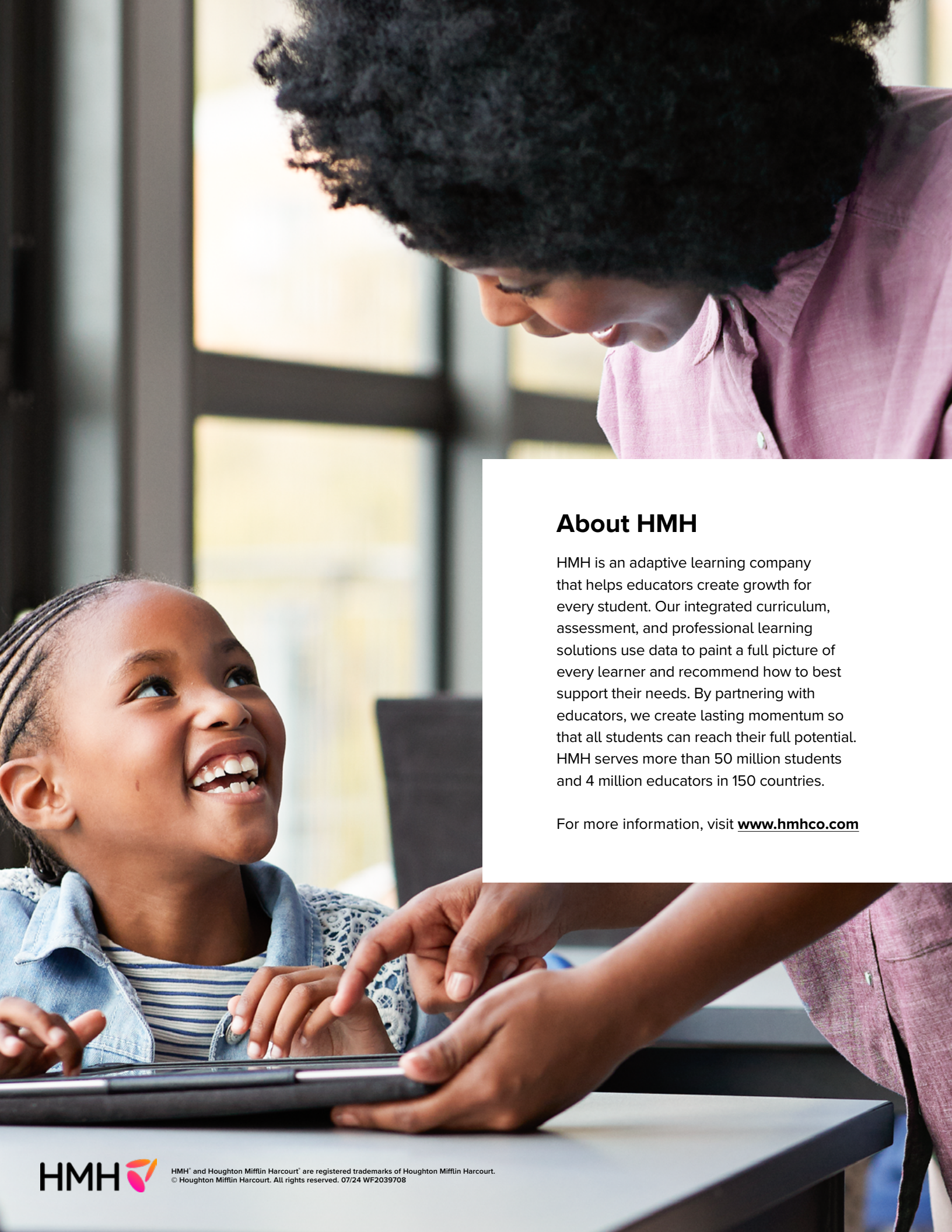
## The path forward

Education challenges remain. As a country, we still struggle with equal access to education and educational resources. Our 2021–22 high school graduation rate sits at an uninspiring 79%, and in the past decade, total college enrollment has dropped by nearly 1.5 million students, or close to 7.4%.

**With these challenges in mind, we must come together to transform education with the student at the center of every decision.** We have the know-how to create solutions that provide superior classroom experiences and have lasting impact. We can help students and educators maximize their time and talents. We can make a difference.

Educators, administrators, and policymakers must be at the cutting edge of education innovation—unafraid and unhindered—armed with the lessons of the past and confidence in the future. Together, we can have a profound impact on student outcomes. Together, we can define this new paradigm of K–12 learning.





## About HMH

HMH is an adaptive learning company that helps educators create growth for every student. Our integrated curriculum, assessment, and professional learning solutions use data to paint a full picture of every learner and recommend how to best support their needs. By partnering with educators, we create lasting momentum so that all students can reach their full potential. HMH serves more than 50 million students and 4 million educators in 150 countries.

For more information, visit [www.hmhco.com](http://www.hmhco.com)



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