

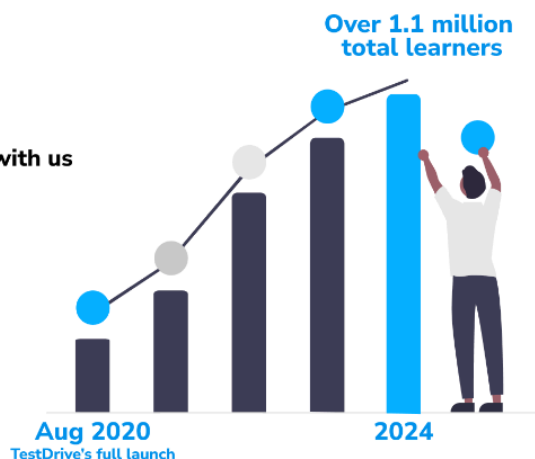


Newsletter #7

Updates

Social Media TestDrive 2024 Year in Review

- 230k+ total learners
- 69k+ learners shared their activity data with us
- Top 5 modules (not in order):
 - *How to be an Upstander*
 - *Is it Private Information?*
 - *The Ups and Downs of Social Media*
 - *Shaping Your Digital Footprint*
 - *Healthy Social Media Habits*



teach these crucial skills. By analyzing data from over 3,700 learners - including both classroom students and online users - we discovered important insights about how students learn social media literacy through TestDrive.

The results demonstrate the effectiveness of Social Media TestDrive's experiential learning approach. While mere exposure to social media posts does not improve knowledge, Social Media TestDrive learners benefit from guided activities that help them reflect on their experiences, conceptualize new knowledge, and then actively experiment with this knowledge in realistic scenarios. The study found that completing recommended actions - such as flagging problematic posts or supporting cyberbullying victims - predicted better learning outcomes than simply viewing content. This structured approach, combining clear learning objectives, real-life examples, hands-on experimentation, and reflection activities, proves particularly effective. Through this "socially situated literacy practice," youth develop the practical skills needed to participate responsibly in online communities, with the knowledge more likely to stick because they've actively applied it in realistic situations.

In the News



[Webpage](#)

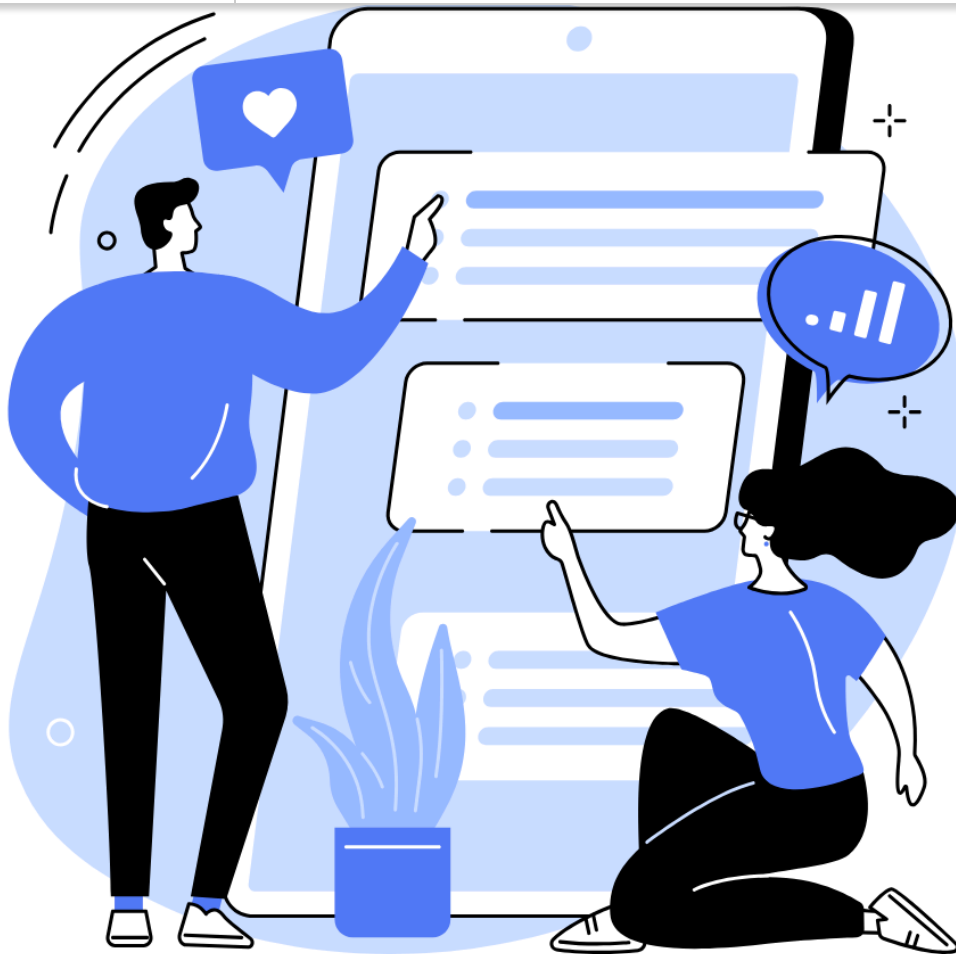
While we grow more and more concerned about youth social media use, we

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media? This June, New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed two groundbreaking bills to protect minors from harmful social media practices. The Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) For Kids Act (S.7694A/A.8148A) restricts social media companies from using addictive feeds, or feeds driven by algorithms, for users under 18, aiming to address youth mental health concerns linked to excessive social media use. The New York Child Data Protection Act (S.7695B/A.8149A) prohibits online platforms from collecting, using, sharing or selling minors' personal data without consent or doing so is strictly necessary for the purpose of the website. While kids may continue to use social media under the age of 18, this is a step towards creating a safer digital environment.

As the lab director of the Social Media Lab, Dr. Natalie Bazarova, said in a recent interview, “The SAFE For Kids Act and the New York Child Data Protection Act represent critical steps in addressing the challenges posed by social media to young users. At the Cornell Social Media Lab, we’ve been exploring ways to enhance digital literacy among youth, and these legislative efforts align with our mission.”

Participate in a Study!



Calling adult TestDrive users!

This study is inviting educators, youth workers, parents, or other adults who have used SMTD with youth to participate in a virtual 30–60 minute interview. Participants will be asked to share their thoughts on their experience using SMTD and provide feedback on the best uses and implementation of SMTD in the future. Participation in this study is voluntary, and if you would like to take part, please complete the survey [here](#).

We will be reaching out to eligible individuals who have completed the above form to coordinate a time to set up a Zoom audio-video meeting to conduct the interviews remotely.

Featured FAQ



Q: Do you have any resources focused on AI education?

A: We are currently collaborating with the School Library Systems Association of New York's (SLSA) [AI Library Ready project](#) to help develop the scope and sequence of AI curriculum offerings for ages K-12.

We would love to hear from you. Please send us any other questions that you may have at socialmediatestdrive@gmail.com.

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