DIGITAL SKILLS unlock access to GOOD JOB$

What are Digital Skills?

People define digital skills in different ways. One way of thinking about digital skills is a set of skills that include:

Technical Skills
The ability to adapt to ever-changing technology, use software, & operate a device

Information Skills
The ability to search, evaluate, & organize information from multiple sources

Critical Thinking Skills
The ability to make informed choices by filtering and formulating opinions

Communication Skills
Effective expression that takes into account the audience and medium
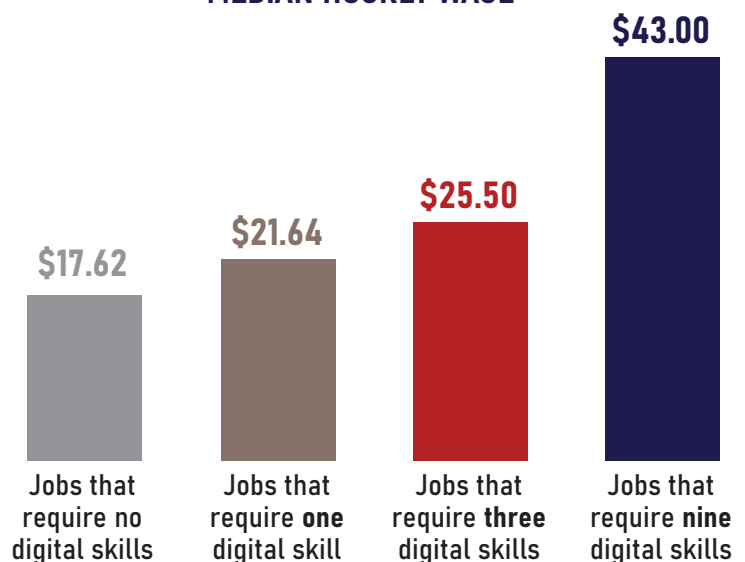
Collaboration Skills
The ability to work within teams

Problem-Solving Skills
The ability to identify necessary actions in response to complex situations[1]

Jobs that require DIGITAL SKILLS pay more

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE

$17.62	$21.64	$25.50	$43.00
Jobs that require no digital skills	Jobs that require **one** digital skill	Jobs that require **three** digital skills	Jobs that require **nine** digital skills

Hoosiers Need Opportunities to Learn Digital Skills

Why do Digital Skills Matter?

Low-income Hoosiers who responded to the Indiana Community Action Agencies' 2020 needs assessment survey (n=5822) ranked access to good jobs with higher wages and benefits as the top community need in Indiana.[2]

Meanwhile, 83% of businesses in Indiana report that they are struggling to fill open positions, with 48% reporting that applicants lack the skills and qualifications they need.[3]

In Indiana, **89%** of jobs likely require digital skills while **39%** definitely do.[4]

Due to lack of opportunities to learn and practice digital skills, this skills gap is larger for certain groups, including older Hoosiers, those in poverty, Hoosiers of color, and those with limited English proficiency.[5]

Digital literacy programs can increase both knowledge and confidence – but likely work best when they are not one-off programs.[6]

Evidence suggests that expanding internet access and digital skills training can unlock job opportunities, increase earnings, and boost productivity.[7]

Digital skills also have important implications for educational attainment, health, and the ability to access supports to meet basic needs.[8]

Policymakers and community leaders should invest in opportunities to increase both:

Foundational Skills
Skills a person can use across multiple life tasks, such as general computer literacy, word processing, and internet use

Specialized Skills
Skills that might only apply in a particular job or role, such as coding, entering data into electronic records systems, or operating specialized machinery

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