

## Duolingo Launches Platform for Schools

Pittsburgh, PA (January 8, 2015) – It may seem like just another fun mobile app, but there are already more people learning languages on [Duolingo](#) in the United States than in the entire US public school system.

Now, in response to thousands of letters from language teachers and education ministries from governments around the world, Duolingo is announcing the launch of a platform aimed at enhancing learning in formal educational settings: [Duolingo for Schools](#).

Despite its deceptively simple game-like interface, Duolingo uses sophisticated machine learning algorithms based on data from its 60 million users to personalize education and keep students actively engaged.

Because of that, and because the app is free and requires no begging for funding from administrations (non-existent in most cases!), many language classrooms in the US and abroad had already begun informally adopting the Duolingo platform as a technological companion. The governments of Costa Rica and Guatemala, for example, recently started pilot programs to use Duolingo in some of their public schools, where teachers with high English proficiency are scarce.

The launch of Duolingo for Schools means educators will finally have a dashboard to track student progress on the popular Duolingo app in a consolidated manner... but that's just the beginning.

The platform can identify patterns in the way individuals learn and react accordingly to reinforce areas of difficulty. Duolingo's technological companion for the classroom will help teachers understand each student's learning needs at a level of detail previously impossible. For example, if a student hesitates before responding to certain questions, this indicates a lack of confidence and the need for more exercises of its kind. Additionally, incorrectly answered questions may all have an underlying commonality: some students may struggle with listening exercises, while others may have difficulties with verbs no matter the topic.

"The goal is to provide a personalized learning experience that gives each student and instructor immediate feedback in the classroom. This can free up teachers' time to concentrate on difficult concepts, answer questions, and assist students falling behind," said Luis von Ahn, professor of computer science at Carnegie Mellon University and co-founder of Duolingo.

Some language teachers like Said Kassem Hamideh are already restructuring their entire curriculum to synch with Duolingo's data-driven program. "The gamification really works with the kids and opens up an opportunity for them to reinforce what is taught during instructional time. I am the only foreign language teacher at a school of 750 students. We have been using

Duolingo this year, and I'm seeing really novel results," said the high school Spanish teacher at Washington High School of IT in Milwaukee.

"Students see Duolingo as a fun activity, so assigning it in class is viewed as a reward for hard work," said Veronique Balou-Kovalenko, a middle school language teacher in Connecticut.

Last year Duolingo launched the Test Center, a standardized test that aims at becoming the de facto way of measuring language proficiency worldwide. With Duolingo for Schools, the company hopes to have a lasting impact on the educational system.

Visit Duolingo for Schools here:

<http://schools.duolingo.com>

### **About Duolingo**

Created by crowdsourcing pioneer Luis von Ahn and Severin Hacker, Duolingo is known for its free, science-based language education platform selected by Apple as iPhone App of the Year 2013, by Google as Best of the Best for Android in 2013 and 2014, and by TechCrunch as Best Education Startup. With over 60 million users, Duolingo is now the most popular way to learn languages online. Duolingo began as a research project in von Ahn's lab at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science, where Dr. Hacker received his Ph.D.

### **About Luis von Ahn**

Luis von Ahn is the inventor of reCAPTCHA, a crowdsourcing technology used worldwide to digitize millions of books every year. He has sold two companies to Google, given a very popular TED talk watched by over a million people, and is known for changing what can be accomplished via the collaboration of millions of people online. Luis was awarded the MacArthur Genius grant for his accomplishments and has been featured in The Economist, The New York Times, Forbes, The Wall Street Journal and other prominent media worldwide. He received his Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University.