

52 Schools Join Verizon Innovative Learning

Continued partnership between Digital Promise and Verizon provides free technology and internet access to select middle schools nationwide

MARCH 13, 2019 | Washington, D.C. – Fifty-two middle schools from 15 districts across the country will join the Verizon Innovative Learning schools network in the 2019-20 school year. The continued partnership between Digital Promise and Verizon Innovative Learning—made possible by a \$48 million grant from the Verizon Foundation—equips every student and teacher at select middle schools across America with a device and up to a four-year data plan. In addition to free technology and access, schools receive extensive professional development and support towards powerful teaching and learning that leverages technology in and out of the classroom.

Since 2014, the Verizon Innovative Learning schools initiative has reached more than 86,000 students and nearly 6,000 teachers across 100 middle schools in 18 states and Washington, D.C. The 52 new schools joining the program next school year will bring the total to 152 middle schools nationwide.

In addition to free mobile devices and accompanying 4G LTE data plans, participating schools receive a subsidy towards a full-time technology coach to support teachers with effectively integrating technology into learning. Over the course of the initiative, students also will have the opportunity to learn about emerging technology such as augmented and virtual reality and 3D design.

“We are pleased to continue our partnership with Verizon to provide this amazing opportunity for each and every student in these schools,” said Karen Cator, president and CEO of Digital Promise. “Our mission at Digital Promise is to close the Digital Learning Gap, and supporting the access provided by the initiative helps to bridge the homework gap that occurs when students don’t have the same access at home that they have in the classroom.”

Participating schools use technology to meet the needs of each student and empower them with skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and creativity. Students show marked academic improvement, as well as a greater proficiency in STEM (Science,

* 53% are more engaged in school. Across all VIL programs that reported data in 2017.

After two years, VILs students improved on standardized tests at rates higher than their peers - 3X for math and 2X for reading.

Source: Westat March 15, 2017 Research - Verizon Innovative Learning Schools: Results of the Analysis of Student Administrative Data From Cohort 1 Schools (based on two years of data for 6th grade Cohort 1 schools that provided complete data)

Technology, Engineering, and Math) subjects as a result of the initiative, and they are more engaged in school.*

The 52 new Verizon Innovative Learning schools comprising the program's largest cohort to date are:

- Alhambra Elementary School District (AZ): Barcelona Elementary School, Catalina Ventura School, Granada Elementary East, Madrid Neighborhood School, Sevilla Elementary West, and Simpson School
- Alum Rock Union Elementary School District (CA): Renaissance Academy of Arts, Sciences, and Social Justice @ Fischer, Renaissance Academy of Arts, Sciences, and Social Justice @ Mathson
- Austin Independent School District (TX): Burnett Middle School, Garcia YMLA, Martin Middle School, Paredes Middle School, and Sadler Means YWLA
- Cincinnati Public Schools (OH): Roberts Paideia Academy and Saylor Park School
- Friendship Public Charter Schools (DC): Armstrong Middle School, Blow Pierce Middle School, Chamberlain Middle School, Southeast Middle School, and Woodridge Middle School
- Glendale Elementary School District (AZ): Challenger Middle School and Melvine E. Sine Elementary School
- Holyoke Public School District (MA): Holyoke STEM Academy and Peck Middle School
- Irving Independent School District (TX): de Zavala Middle School, Johnson Middle School, Travis Middle School
- Little Rock School District (AR): Cloverdale Middle School, Mabelvale Middle School, and Mann Magnet Middle School
- Los Angeles Unified School District (CA): Christopher Columbus Middle School, El Sereno Middle School, John Burroughs Middle School, Thomas Starr King Middle School, and Daniel Webster Middle School
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools (FL): Andover Middle School, Hammocks Middle School, Lake Stevens Middle School, Paul W. Bell Middle School, and Ruben Dario Middle School
- Montgomery County Public Schools (MD): Argyle Magnet Middle School, Forest Oak Middle School, and Neelsville Middle School
- Newark Public Schools (NJ): Dr. Horton School, Hawkins Street School, and Hawthorne Avenue School
- Reynolds School District (OR): H.B. Lee Middle School, Reynolds Middle School, and Walt Morey Middle School
- Tucson Unified School District (AZ): Lawrence 3-8 School, Mansfeld Middle Magnet School, and Pueblo Gardens PK-8

For more information, visit verizon.digitalpromise.org.

Press Contact:

Jessica Schuler
Digital Promise
410-598-9848

jschuler@digitalpromise.org

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About Digital Promise

Digital Promise is a nonprofit organization that builds powerful networks and takes on grand challenges by working at the intersection of researchers, entrepreneurs, and educators. Our vision is that all people, at every stage of their lives, have access to learning experiences that help them acquire the knowledge and skills they need to thrive and continuously learn in an ever-changing world. For more information, visit the Digital Promise website and follow [@digitalpromise](https://twitter.com/digitalpromise) for updates.

About Verizon

Since 2000, the Verizon Foundation has donated more than \$936 million to address critical societal challenges and effect positive change. The Foundation's philanthropic focus is ensuring equitable access to education. Its signature program, Verizon Innovative Learning, has given more than a million kids the tech education they deserve, and will help two million more by 2021. Verizon's employees are generous with their donations and their time, having donated nearly \$240 million and served more than 7.8 million volunteer hours to support organizations in their communities. For more information, visit verizon.com/about/responsibility.