

Innovation Portfolios Share Powerful Learning Strategies and Models to Inspire Advancements in Education

New platform showcases insights and lessons learned from school districts in the League of Innovative Schools

April 9, 2019 | **Washington, D.C.** – The Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, a national coalition of 102 public school districts across 33 states representing nearly three million students, has unveiled <u>Innovation Portfolios</u>, a storytelling platform where member districts can widely share innovations taking place in their district.

Innovation Portfolios represent a new effort by Digital Promise to share a wide breadth and depth of innovation in education, empowering school districts to tell their own stories of successful programs they've designed, supported and grown. Already, nearly 170 entries across dozens of districts offer models, strategies, and lessons learned.

"Stories have the power to inform, inspire, connect, and mobilize," said Digital Promise President and CEO Karen Cator. "Innovation Portfolios present powerful stories of important accomplishments across public education. We're excited to see how this resource grows as more districts contribute."

Visitors to the site can search for Innovation Portfolio entries by filtering for categories such as district location, district size, a district's percentage of free and reduced lunch, and urbanicity. Additionally, stories are tagged by challenge topics identified by educators on the <u>Digital Promise Challenge Map</u>.

Innovation Portfolios were first unveiled at the spring 2019 League of Innovative Schools meeting in Seattle, Washington, which convened 250 superintendents, district leaders, partners, and researchers from across the country. Host district Highline Public Schools spoke about their portfolio, which describes their efforts to <u>meaningfully embed digital</u> <u>media literacy</u> throughout their district culture.

"At Highline Public Schools, we strongly believe in the importance of educators telling our own stories," said Highline Public Schools Superintendent Susan Enfield. "The League's Innovation Portfolios are a powerful opportunity for League districts to share the programs we support everyday that are making a difference in our students' lives, and learn from one another in meaningful ways."

Additional examples of Innovation Portfolio entries so far include Owsley County Schools' (Boonesville, Kentucky) <u>creation of a Virtual Learning Lab</u>, which provides in-school opportunities for students to explore careers beyond their rural community; Sitka School District's efforts to incorporate <u>arts</u>, <u>culture</u>, <u>and technology</u> into their curriculum across all grades and subjects; and Middletown City School District's (Middletown, Ohio) <u>partnership</u> <u>with a local clinic</u> to create a school-based health center that provides dental, vision, and general practitioner services.

"In Middletown City School District, we are proud to share innovative ideas, programs, and implementation practices with educators to advance equity in school systems," said Marlon Styles, superintendent of Middletown City School District. "We are excited that the Innovation Portfolios give us an opportunity to share with and learn from others around the country, opening up opportunities to collaborate with educators nationally. Innovation Portfolios are an important new opportunity for everyone—school systems, policymakers, you name it—to learn about powerful practices happening right now in public education."

Innovation Portfolios will continue to expand as new stories are published from the League. This summer, we will share how-to stories on making powerful use of assessment data from Gurnee School District 56 (Gurnee, Illinois), San Diego County Office of Education, Stephenville Independent School District (Stephenville, Texas), Uinta County School District #1 (Evanston, Wyoming), and Vancouver Public Schools (Vancouver, Washington). Additionally, compelling stories from Digital Promise's Education Innovation Clusters network will join the platform later this year.

To further explore the Innovation Portfolios, visit <u>portfolios.digitalpromise.org</u>.

Press Contact: Erica Lawton Weinschenk Digital Promise 202-450-3675 erica@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 <u>Digital</u> <u>Promise website</u> and follow <u>@digitalpromise</u> for updates.

