

# Tablets with Google Play for Education empower the scholars at KIPP Bridge Charter School



## About KIPP Bridge Charter School

- [www.kipp.org/school-content/kipp-bridge-charter-school](http://www.kipp.org/school-content/kipp-bridge-charter-school)
- Oakland, CA
- 319 students from grades 5–8

## Goals

- Provide students with access to online learning resources to equip them with the skills needed for furthering their studies

## Approach

- Provided all students within the school a Nexus Tablet with Google Play for Education

## Results

- Improved the quality of students' written work through putting a broader pool of resources at their fingertips
- Used apps to make more effective use of classroom time and gained a better understanding of individual aptitude
- Motivated students to be more confident in classroom discussion and presentations

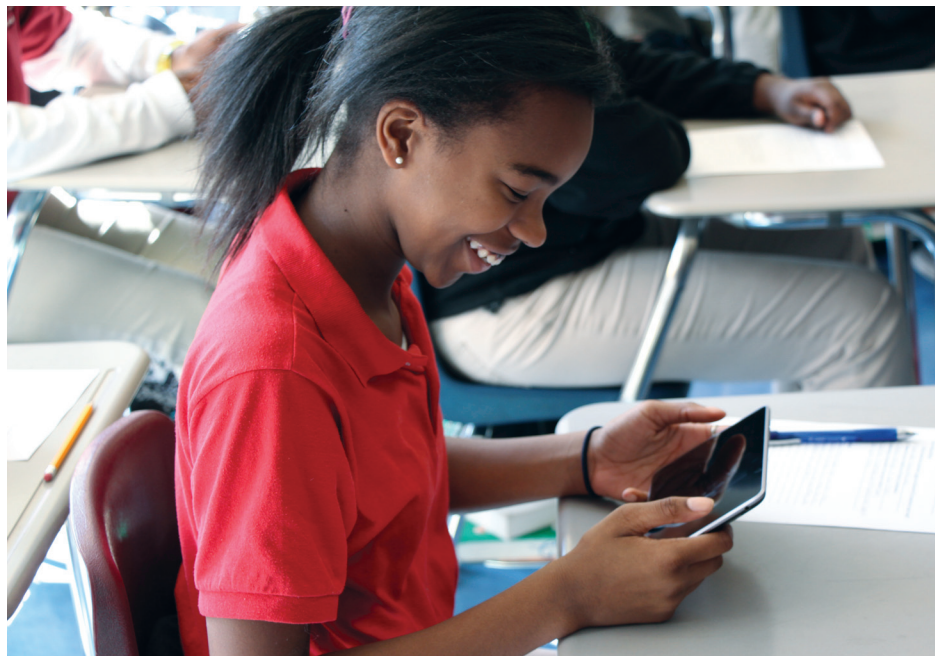
## About KIPP

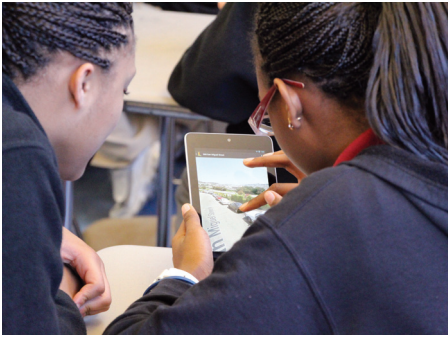
KIPP, (Knowledge Is Power Program), is a national network of free, open-enrollment public charter schools dedicated to preparing students in underserved communities for success in college and in life. Its school in Oakland California, KIPP Bridge Charter School, has 319 students from grades 5–8. With 72% of its students qualifying for federal free and reduced-price meals, KIPP Bridge Charter School has exceeded all expectations by qualifying as a California Distinguished School and remains in the top ten percent of all public schools in the state.

*“With a new curriculum around the corner, Nexus with Google Play for Education tablets are a key device for helping students to see the bigger picture, obtain multiple perspectives and express considered opinions. As a result, students’ papers are now more dynamic.”*  
 —Cathy Cowan, eighth grade teacher, KIPP Bridge Charter School

## Challenge

With its focus on equipping students with the knowledge and skills to thrive in college, KIPP Bridge Charter School recognised the importance of providing adequate access to technology to enhance learning. However, the school only had a few computers and most children did not have access to the internet from home.





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*"This sense of empowerment through instant access to knowledge has really transformed the learning experience at KIPP Bridge Charter School, so much so that those moving onto high school are reluctant to part with their Nexus tablets. We're now confident that when our students leave KIPP Bridge Charter School they have a firm grip of how to use online resources, laying the foundations for successful independent learning and college studies."*

—Sherrye Hubbard, dean of culture,  
KIPP Bridge Charter School

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What's more, the school plans to move to the Common Core standards – a rigorous set of curriculum and assessment criteria that place emphasis on critical thinking and students' ability to articulate an argument based on multiple sources. As the school does not have its own library, enabling the students to do their own research online was essential for developing the skills required by this new curriculum and for success in work and life.

Sherrye Hubbard, Assistant Principal, comments, "Technology has never been more relevant in the classroom and we knew that children would find it a tough challenge to transition to high school without any real exposure to technology or knowing how to do their own online research."

### **Solution**

In spring of 2013 KIPP deployed Nexus 7 tablets with Google Play for Education to each of the 319 students in the school. Teachers used Google Play for Education, the online destination with teacher-approved apps, videos, and books, to discover content by subject, grade, and standard (including Common Core) and to distribute it to their classes via the cloud.

KIPP started by giving tablets to its 16 teachers. Many of the teachers had never used a tablet before but the easy-to-use interface meant they quickly grasped the potential.

"Suddenly we had a window to the web in the classroom and access to an entire portfolio of learning exercises through Google Play for Education which had previously been unavailable to us. This was a huge opportunity for transforming the classroom learning experience," explains eighth grade teacher, Cathy Cowan.

Introducing the technology caused a great deal of excitement and proved to be a hassle-free process. As the device interface was so intuitive, students understood how to use them with very little instruction.

### **Benefits**

#### **Ownership**

The fact that the program was 1:1, so that each student had their own assigned device, was an important part of the success of the roll-out. "It felt like Christmas had come early. As each student had their own device, they immediately felt a sense of pride and ownership, treating the tablets with great care," explains Cowan.

In English, teachers use the Socrative Teacher app at the start of each class, with students completing a short quiz to check understanding from the prior



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## About tablets with Google Play for Education

Introducing tablets with Google Play for Education, the easy and affordable 1:1 tablet solution built for learning and made for the classroom from Google. Google Play for Education is the new online destination that empowers educators to easily discover and share content that meets the needs of their individual students, classrooms, or districts. Learn more at [google.com/edu/tablets](http://google.com/edu/tablets).

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day's lesson. Previously the teacher would ask just a few students to share their learning. Using Nexus 7 tablets and Socrative gives the teacher a much more precise understanding of individual progression.

### Access

Another important benefit of tablets with Google Play for Education has been the freedom of access to information. KIPP has put online resources at student fingertips, so they can digest a much broader array of material and, crucially, use this to make informed choices. Cowan believes the quality of student essays has vastly improved as a result. Previously students were limited to the information in handouts. But now students can evaluate a number of resources and the views they form are now more rounded.

"With a new curriculum around the corner, Nexus tablets with Google Play for Education are a key device for helping students to see the bigger picture, obtain multiple perspectives and express considered opinions. As a result, students' papers are now more dynamic."

### Individualization

Tablets have also helped teachers to individualize learning. Having access to a 1:1 tablet helped one student who missed most of sixth and seventh grade due to illness catch up and become one of the finest writers in the grade.

Equally, students who in the past struggled with the pace of learning are now receiving more attention. "With Nexus tablets with Google Play for Education, it is far easier to tailor the pace of learning to individuals so that everyone benefits. Previously, as the teacher I was the key source of knowledge and if students had questions they'd need to wait their turn to ask me. Now, the tablet answers many of their questions so my interaction with the students as individuals can take precedence," explains Cowan.

### Creativity

Use of tablets with Google Play for Education has also fuelled a more creative approach to learning. In music, students can record beats and compositions on their Nexus tablets to share with the group. In history class students also used tablets to film interviews of their relatives about their family tree. Both of these projects led to rich class discussion.

"Using tablets to add a richer media experience to the classroom keeps students engaged and interested. They listen more attentively to one another's presentations and hold more constructive discussions," adds Cowan.

Overall, the program has been so successful that students are even using them in the hallways between classes.

"This sense of empowerment through instant access to knowledge has really transformed the learning experience at KIPP Bridge Charter School, so much so that 8th graders moving onto high school are reluctant to part with their Nexus tablets. We're now confident that when our students leave KIPP Bridge Charter School they have a firm grip of how to use online resources, laying the foundations for successful independent learning and college studies," concludes Assistant Principal Hubbard.

Sixth grade teacher Chantal Carrington agrees, adding "Tablets enhance our students' experience by putting the latest technology at their fingertips in order to keep them engaged in their learning."

