

Arcadia Unified School District

Impact portraits: Success stories with Google for Education

Arcadia Unified School District's implementation of Chromebooks and Google Workspace for Education led to tangible gains for students and teachers alike. Students became more engaged, thanks to the addition of self-directed learning. Teachers were able to help students who struggled, using a faster feedback loop to give them real-time results. Administrators implemented Google tools for themselves first, and after experiencing the benefits, became cheerleaders for a district-wide 1:1 rollout with full-time technology coaches to help integrate Chromebooks into classrooms.

District facts (Public school district)



Total district enrollment

9,701 Students
500 Teachers



Grades served

K>12



Number of schools

11 Total (6 Elementary school, 3 Middle school, 1 High school, 1 Learning center)



Free/reduced price lunch

20% of students qualify



Google tools

9,701 Chromebooks
3 years using Chromebooks
4 years using Google Workspace for Education
100% Students using Google Workspace for Education



Ethnicity

65% Asian
15% White
14% Hispanic/Latino
3% Filipino
2% Black/African American
0.3% Two or more races
0.2% American Indian or Alaska Native
0.1% Pacific Islander



Students grade level

Grade 6-12 will take devices home during the school year starting in 2016

Why Chromebooks

After the district deployed Chromebooks combined with effective professional development, teachers enhanced the quality of teaching and improved student learning.


Across all subjects, teachers report higher levels of student engagement and increased levels of student achievement and mastery.

Students are more engaged in classes, now that they can access resources and collaborate with classmates on their Chromebooks.


Results

At the end of SY 2015–2016, students and teachers were asked how Google technology changed their teaching and learning.

74%

 of teachers report Google products have improved the quality of student work


83%

 of students report using Google products have impacted the quality of their work, with 22.6% saying it has had a “huge” impact


83%

 of students report they either like or love using Google Workspace for Education


59%

 of students create original content (Docs, Sheets, even magazines) at least once a month


71%

 71% of teachers report Google tools improved student collaboration, with 35% saying it has made a “huge” impact

79%

 of students report Google tools improved feedback from teachers

70%

 of students collaborate with other students at least once a month, with 32.1% collaborating at least once a week, and 18.9% collaborating daily

Introducing technology

Arcadia Unified School District, located just east of Pasadena, CA, fundamentally shifted their culture and pedagogical approaches after deploying Google Workspace for Education and Chromebooks. It wasn't just the equipment, though: they were ready for a shift.

In 2012, the District adopted Gmail, which offers unlimited free storage for education users, because their servers were overloaded. Within two weeks, the superintendent used Google Docs during a cabinet meeting; the following week, principals used Docs in their meetings. School leaders said, “The next thing we knew, schools were going to Google Forms instead of triplicate paper forms and Google Workspace was popping up everywhere.” After the district deployed Chromebooks combined with effective professional development, teachers were able to enhance their quality of teaching and improve student learning.



We didn't just take technology and put it in the classroom and call it good. We made sure there was strong infrastructure and curricular support as well.”

Greg Gazanian,
Chief Strategy and Innovation
Officer at Arcadia Unified School
District

Chromebook meets pedagogy

Chromebooks and Google Workspace for Education helped teachers combine technology and pedagogy. Students research topics and trends in history on their own during class time, work on current events at a moment's notice, and connect those events to the curriculum. Across all subjects, teachers report higher levels of student engagement and increasing levels of student achievement and mastery. Teachers now have a faster feedback loop, enabling them to identify and support students who need intervention much more quickly. "It wasn't about technology but about our goals for the district. It was a holistic cultural change," says Gazanian. Students who otherwise would slip through the cracks no longer can avoid participation, because teachers can view their work in Google Workspace in real-time. Teachers then adjust instruction in real-time depending on the needs, progress and questions of each class.

Working together, more

Students as young as second grade now regularly send emails after school to teachers asking for support or clarification on assignments. Students are more engaged in classes, now that they can access resources and collaborate with classmates on their Chromebooks. Because students have access to their Chromebooks and Google Drive outside the classroom, they engage with classmates in real time, even if they are absent. This decreases the loss of instructional time and models essential communication and collaboration skills for the classroom and workplace of the future. One teacher summed up the changes in his classroom by saying, "My teaching style has changed in so many ways, all for the better."



Be able to set your values as an organization, give them the support to flourish, and trusting them to grow. Google, Chromebooks, and Google Workspace are amazing tools that are allowing our teachers to flourish."

Greg Gazanian,
Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer at Arcadia Unified School District

