

# Brevard Public Schools

## Impact portraits: Success stories with Google for Education

Brevard Public Schools stretches along an economically diverse area of Florida's eastern coastline nearly the size of Rhode Island. The district wanted to improve students' writing skills as an impetus for success across all subjects. After participating in Speak Up, a national education research project for digital learning, district leaders realized the best way to achieve this was through technology. Their 2011 partnership with Google made Google Workspace available for teachers then expanded to add Chromebooks to classrooms. This increase in technology helped teachers cater to students of disparate learning needs, allowing a level of personalization essential for a district with such a diverse population of students.

### District facts (Public school district)



#### Total district enrollment

**73,000** Students

**9,000** Teachers



#### Grades served

**Pre-K>12**



#### Number of schools

**108** Total (55 Elementary school, 11 Middle school, 11 High school, 17 Special centers, 9 Charter schools, 5 Combination schools)



#### Google tools

**2,500** Chromebooks

**4 years** using Chromebooks

**5 years** using Google Workspace for Education

**48,000** Students using Google

Workspace for Education

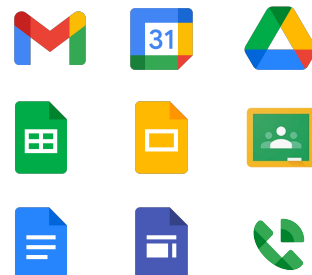


#### Free/reduced price lunch

**48%** of students qualify



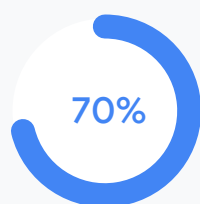
#### Google Workspace for Education tools used



## Why Chromebooks

- Teachers use Chromebooks and Google Workspace to engage students individually and cater to different learning styles.
- With Chromebooks, students take ownership of their education and feel more comfortable offering help to and receiving help from their peers.
- Teachers use Google technology to bring new educational experiences to their students and prepare them for an ever-changing world.
- Digital documents allow students to access assignments outside of the classroom and stay engaged during absences.
- Students use Google Workspace to access primary source materials, inspiring advanced digital research.
- Google technology eliminates the social anxieties surrounding classroom interactions and encourages open communication and collaboration.
- Teachers use accessibility and collaboration functions of Google Workspace to quickly provide feedback to students and easily share student progress with parents.

## Results



of students and staff using Google Workspace for Education

## High impact on a small scale

Being such a large district with a limited budget, Brevard had to get creative with how they rolled out technology to their 73,000 students and 108 schools. They launched a competition where each school sent a proposal describing how they would use the technology. Selected schools received 280 Chromebooks and Google Workspace access for all students. This small scale helped schools maximize their technology capabilities to better serve their students and become case studies for other schools in the district.

## Stevenson Elementary's goal to foster early success

Stevenson Elementary, one of the winners of the technology competition, wanted to improve literacy and foster a lifelong love of learning to guarantee their students' success in a rapidly-changing world. They discovered that Chromebooks and Google Workspace provided the perfect platform to build a mastery of writing and prepare students for college and future careers.

Teachers and administrators observed that students became more engaged, organized, and confident, and found their students often jumped to the aid of their classmates. Students stay more organized and often share projects with their friends. Google Docs makes it easy to create or edit documents together, which students enjoy doing. "It was very convenient having computers in the classroom," a Stevenson student said, "I enjoy how if I had a question I could find the answer at my fingertips. I think having the computers is more enjoyable because you get feedback on your work a lot faster. I also feel learning is more collaborative." Stevenson parents even reported that their children accessed their school projects from home.

## What 21st century skills have you used this year with the student Chromebooks?

280 Chromebooks



66% Communication



83% Creativity



57% Collaboration



34% Innovation



28% Global awareness



85% Problem solving



58% Critical thinking



Achieving a one-to-one environment for so many students changed everything, we reached a critical mass of teachers and students across the school. We now live and breathe the new approach every day.”

Chris Reed,  
Principal, Williams Elementary

## Transformation through technology at Williams Elementary

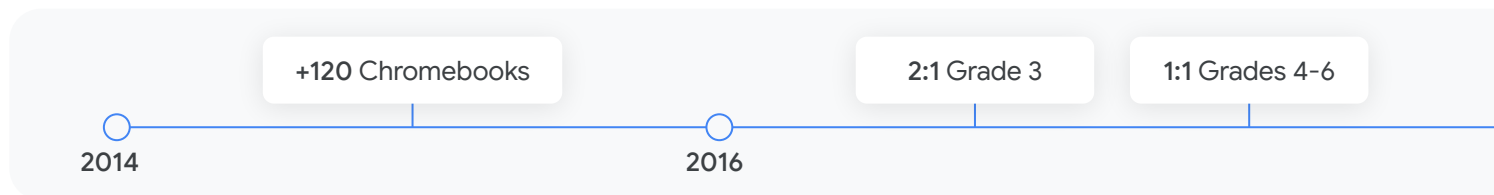
Williams Elementary’s goal for their technology deployment was to provide individualized attention to their many students and also provide more professional support for their teachers. Principal Chris Reed knew giving each student a Chromebook would prove to be the answer to their academic goals. “Achieving a one-to-one environment for so many students changed everything,” Reed said, “We reached a critical mass of teachers and students across the school. We now live and breathe the new approach every day.”

For the teachers of Williams Elementary, they soon discovered that Chromebooks and Google Workspace unlocked another level of communication among students, teachers, and parents. Absences no longer left students behind their classmates because assignments could be accessed from home. Teachers easily shared student work and progress to simplify Parent-Teacher conferences. Teachers met with each other more often, pooling instruction methods and tips to engage students. The technology allowed them to talk less and better tend to the needs of individual students. They also brought new experiences to their classrooms by blending digital and analog learning. One science class combined Google technology and traditional microscopes to explore scientific data as it updates and develops. “This saves teachers time,” said Williams teacher Sara Hurston, “but they don’t always realize that up front.”



## Chromebooks help raise standardized test scores

One of Brevard's schools, Quest Elementary, added Chromebooks in the 2014–15 school year and saw standardized test scores rise



### Students scoring proficient or above proficient in English/Language arts



### Students scoring proficient or above proficient in Math



## Expanding academic excellence West Shore

As one of the country’s top performing schools, West Shore faced a different problem. West Shore Senior High School was ranked the number one high school in Florida and the 58th most challenging high school in the U.S. With students who regularly tested above average, Principal Rick Fleming decided to focus on what skills West Shore students needed to be successful at highly competitive colleges. “Our guidance team discovered that the top colleges in the nation expect one thing above all others for their incoming students: the ability to research and collaborate,” said English teacher Jessica Hartman, “Our technology efforts since then have been highly focused on improving our students’ college and career readiness, in particular through helping students become stronger at original research and collaboration.” While West Shore could not provide every student a computer, they started a BYOT,

“Bring Your Own Technology,” program so students could bring in their own devices and get all the benefits of Google Workspace.

On top of increased academic excellence, West Shore experienced a profound change in student communication. Students already fluent in digital communication thanks to social media could interact in a familiar way through Google Workspacetocollaborate on projects virtually. Those who tended to remain quiet in class discovered Google technology gave them a voice to share their perspectives. “Those who suffer from social anxiety are able to flourish behind a computer screen,” said Hartman, “At the same time, much of the student work produced online is more authentic, because students are not only more honest online, but they’re able to simultaneously conduct thorough research. The result is students giving each other healthy challenges and less superficiality.”

## Technology captures the Capstone

Chromebooks and Google Workspace were instrumental in the establishment of West Shore's popular Advanced Placement Capstone Project diploma. The diploma program requires high levels of research and intense collaboration. Students must design, plan, and conduct an in-depth investigative project during their final year. Chromebooks and Google Workspace were perfect for the rigorous nature of the program. "You can't do this effectively without technology," said Language Arts teacher Jeanie Griffin.

Because AP Capstone requires so much deep research, students need frequent access to technology. Each Capstone course was given its own dedicated lab to make sure students can use the tools they need exactly when they need them. West Shore's expert use of Google technology impressed College Board's Senior Director of AP Capstone, Bard Keeler. Keeler said, "I consider West Shore to be one of the best examples of AP Capstone anywhere."

## West Shore class of 2016



160

Total graduates



60

AP Capstone first graduating class

### Conclusion

Using Google technology, Brevard Public Schools focused on what 21st century success looked like for their students. Chromebooks and Google Workspace give them the collaboration and accessibility tools they need to challenge students from elementary school and advanced placement high schools. With Google, Brevard works to inspire students for a technology-dependent future.

