



*News from Central*



Elizabeth Public Schools, Elizabeth, NJ  
December 2, 2015

## ***EPS to Partner with Children's Literacy Initiative i3 grant to improve reading achievement, decrease per-student costs***



Elizabeth Public Schools is among four new school districts nationally that will receive support from the Children's Literacy Initiative through its 2015 Investing in Innovation (i3) Grant.

Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI), a national nonprofit focused on strengthening literacy in early education, will receive nearly \$19.5 million from the 2015 Investing in Innovation (i3 grant) competition from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII).

Elizabeth Public Schools joins Broward County (FL) Public Schools, Houston (TX) Independent School District and Denver (CO) Public Schools (the 7th, 8th and 43rd largest school systems in the country, respectively) to receive support from CLI, which will immediately scale its work to reach 49,500 more students in 33 new schools in the four new school systems.

The award comes after a study from the American Institutes for Research™ found that the CLI professional development program for teachers has a measurable impact on student literacy outcomes. For example, study results demonstrated teachers who received CLI training had a significantly more positive classroom environment and kindergarteners with CLI-trained teachers performed better than 57 percent of their peers.

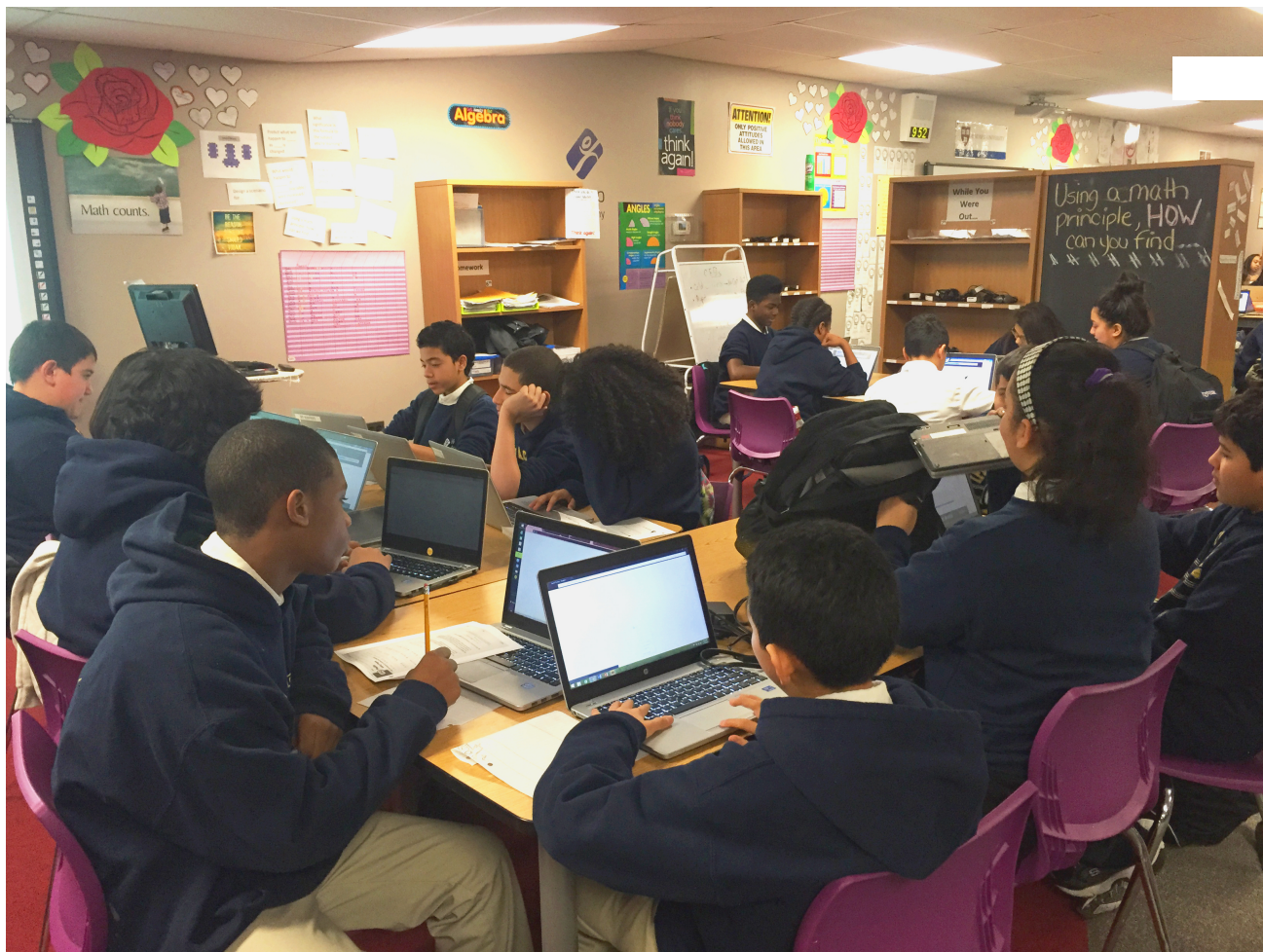
For thirty years, Children's Literacy Initiative has been working with educators to transform literacy instruction. CLI will use this funding to expand its program into to improve reading achievement for the project's high-need students over the course of the five-year implementation.

CLI addresses teacher training and support, supplying classroom and relevant reading materials to schools using its program to ensure children can read by the end of third grade. The program has been implemented in hundreds of schools across the country and continues to expand its reach every year.

The i3 grant program supports local efforts to start or expand evidence-based programs that can transform the academic trajectory of students, educators and their schools. (cont. on page 2)

## *EPS to Partner with Children's Literacy Initiative (cont.)*

Elizabeth Public Schools has already experienced the benefits of an i3 grant, partnering with New Classrooms Innovation Partners, which was awarded \$3 million to expand its successful Teach to One personalized learning model in partnership with Elizabeth Public Schools.



The grant allowed Elizabeth Public Schools to expand the Teach to One: Math program from two district schools to seven, resulting in 25% of Elizabeth's 27 K-8 schools using the one-to-one math program beginning in September 2015.

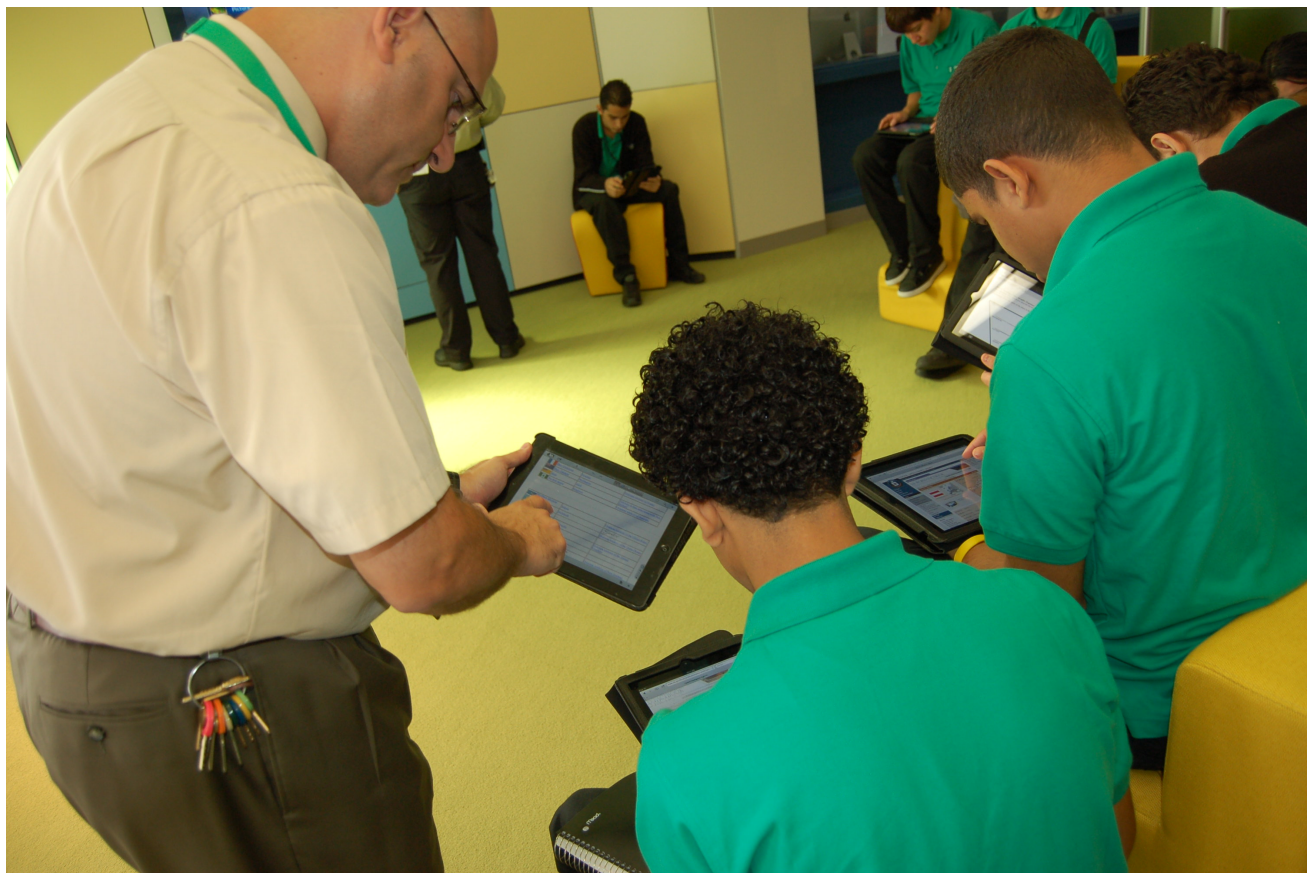
"The Children's Literacy Initiative has been helping children to raise their achievement levels in reading for many years and receiving the i3 grant for a second time is a reflection of their reputation and success," said Elizabeth Public Schools Superintendent Olga Hugelmeyer.

"We look forward to working with them to help improve literacy performance throughout our schools, especially among our population of high needs students and English language learners."





## *EPS Selected to National League of Innovative Schools*



Elizabeth Public Schools was among 22 school districts throughout the United States selected to the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools.

The League, an initiative of Digital Promise, is a coalition of forward-thinking school districts and their leaders that represent an invaluable trove of insights, ideas, and experiences for how to transform teaching and learning.



Elizabeth is considered to be part of this illustrious group as a result of its extensive technology program, highlighted by its 1:1 Leap into the Future initiative that provides a laptop/tablet for every third through twelfth grade student.

Members of the League of Innovative Schools are selected from a competitive and national pool of applicants once a year through a peer-reviewed application process supported by Digital Promise. Superintendents apply to represent their districts and are chosen based on leadership, evidence of results, innovative vision for learning, and commitment to collaboration. (cont. on pg. 4)

## EPS Selected to National League of Innovative Schools (cont.)

With the 22 new school districts that have been added, the League now includes 73 school districts in 33 states, representing more than 3.2 million students. League members share lessons learned, participate in national and regional forums, and partner with research institutions, technology developers, and one another to deliver better results for students.

The League was founded by Digital Promise, an independent, bipartisan nonprofit, authorized by Congress in 2008 as the National Center for Research in Advanced Information and Digital Technologies. Digital Promise was formally launched by President Barack Obama in September 2011 with a mission to improve the opportunity to learn for all Americans through technology and research.



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The funders for Digital Promise include Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Grable Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, Laura and John Arnold Foundation, The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, Morgridge Family Foundation, The Verizon Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Members of the League will participate in a network of superintendents and district leaders leveraging technology to improve student outcomes while partnering with entrepreneurs, researchers, and leading thinkers in a testbed for new approaches to teaching and learning.

"I would like to thank Digital Promise for selecting Elizabeth Public Schools to participate in this special initiative as well as the funding supporters of Digital Promise for making this extraordinary program possible," said Elizabeth Board of Education member Tony Monteiro. (cont. on pg. 5)



## *EPS Selected to National League of Innovative Schools (cont.)*

“We look forward to working with all participants in the League of Innovative Schools to enhance, through the use of technology, the learning experiences and educational opportunities of students in the Elizabeth Public Schools as well as throughout the United States.”

Superintendents, the representative of each League member, commit to attend League of Innovative meetings and to join working groups on a broad range of topics relevant to the changing needs of school districts. League members also engage with entrepreneurs to advance development of new products which help to meet district needs and to support research that expands what is known about teaching and learning with the use of technology.

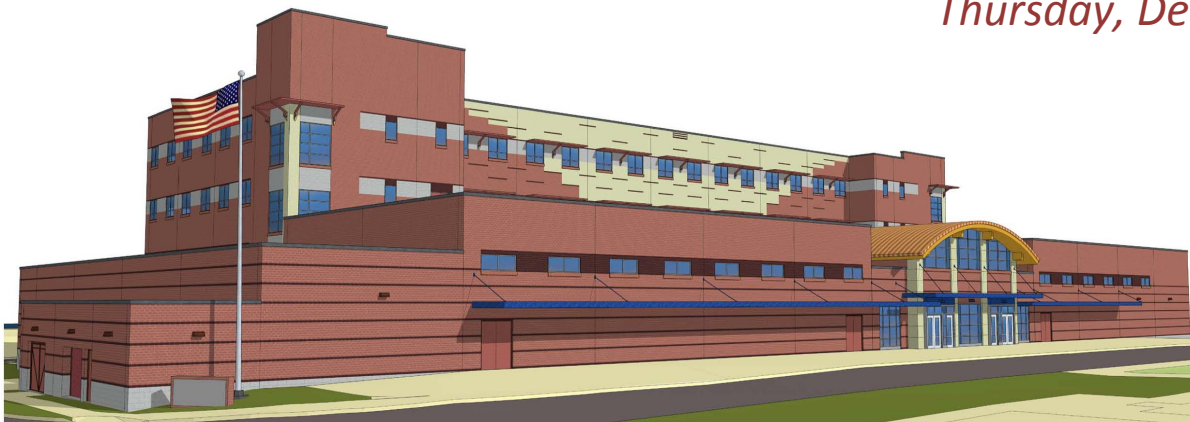


“Elizabeth Public Schools already boasts an impressive technology curriculum that offers various blended learning opportunities through its 1:1 laptop and tablet program, interactive white boards, and digital media environments,” said Elizabeth Board of Education member Paul Perreira. “I look forward to seeing the ways in which our membership in the League of Innovative Schools will further enhance teaching and learning with technology in our classrooms as well as our technology program as a whole.”

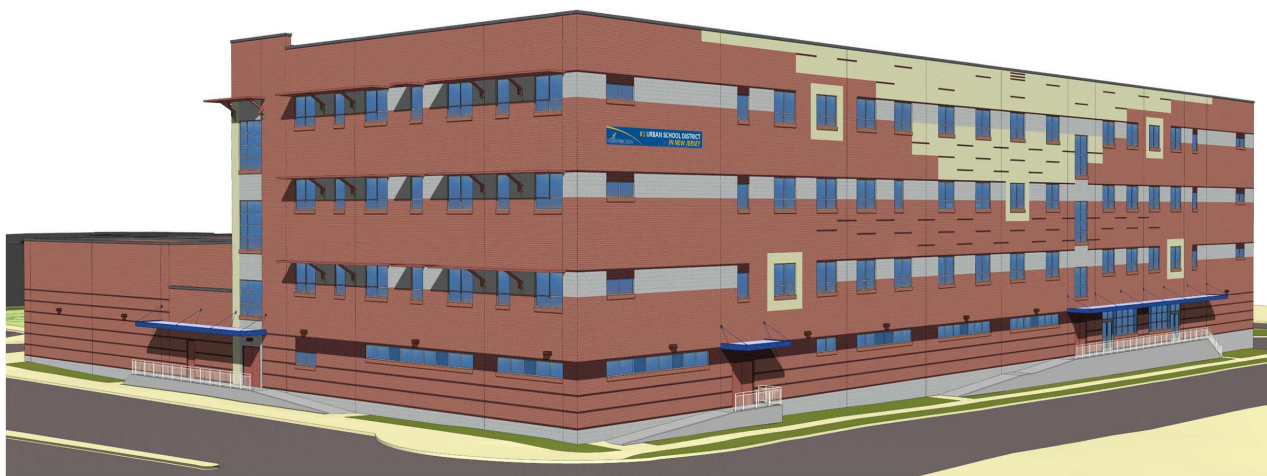
Elizabeth Public Schools will officially be inducted at the annual league meeting being held in Pennsylvania on Oct. 25-27.

# Groundbreaking for New School No. 22

*Thursday, Dec 3rd*



**PERSPECTIVE #1**



**PERSPECTIVE #2**

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Elizabeth Public Schools' new School No. 22 is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 1:00 p.m., at Pulaski Street and Clifton Street on the field directly adjacent to the Upper Academy of Elizabeth High School, located at 447 Richmond Street.

The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (NJSDA) will join the Elizabeth Board of Education to put the 'shovel in the ground' for this new school facility.

Amenities of the new School No. 22, designed to educate over 850 students, include 36 regular education classrooms, 3 science labs, 1 small group instruction classroom, 5 self-contained special education classrooms, a cafetorium with full service kitchen, a gymnasium with lockers and showers, a media center, a computer lab, an art room, and instrumental and vocal music rooms.

The construction of the new building is targeted to be completed 2017.

## ***Elizabeth Soccer Wins Group State Championship***



# ELIZABETH ATHLETICS

Third-seeded Elizabeth, No. 10 in the NJ.com Top 20, won the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 state sectional title with a 2-1 victory over fifth-seeded Newark East Side.

Senior Max Acosta scored the opening goal of the game for Elizabeth in the sixth minute. Newark East Side countered in the 15th minute to even the score at 1-1.

Elizabeth's offense created several scoring opportunities in the second half. Their relentless pursuit finally paid off in the 69th minute when Kevin Patino found the back of the net to put Elizabeth ahead for good at 2-1. The forward's game-winner delivered a sectional title to Elizabeth for the first time since 2008.

## ***National Recognition for EHS Band***

The Elizabeth High School Marching Band finished in ninth place in the Bands of America Regional Competition at the University of Delaware in Newark on October 17.

The 120 member ensemble amazed the crowd with their sound and precision in an entertaining field show entitled Enigma. Musical selections from the show included: Serenada Schizophrana - Danny Elfman; Nimrod from Enigma Variations - Edward Elgar; Burly Brawl - Don Davis and Juno Reactor.

The EHS Marching competed in the preliminary round among 26 bands that traveled from Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. They were one of ten bands to advance to the final round of the competition, finishing eighth overall and third among eight bands performing from the same class. Their eighth place finish also included top three finishes in the sub-captions Visual Performance- Individual, General Effect- Music 2, and General Effect- Music Total.

EHS earned the top score among the nine New Jersey bands that participated in the preliminary round.



# *Elizabeth wins Silver Medal in Special Olympics - Project UNIFY Shriver Cup*



Team Elizabeth, consisting of students from Nicholas S. LaCorte Peterstown School No. 3 and Juan Pablo Duarte - Jose Julian Marti School No. 28, displayed outstanding skill and sportsmanship in winning the silver medal at the annual Shriver Cup Unified Soccer Tournament hosted by Special Olympics New Jersey as part of Project UNIFY at the Player's Development Academy in Somerset.

Unified Sports teams include athletes with and without intellectual disabilities, bringing them together to train and compete side-by-side and contribute as equal members of the team. The competition promoted inclusion, leadership, and acceptance of all, an important aspect of Elizabeth Public Schools' Core Beliefs and Commitments in which ALL Means ALL.

The high schools involved in this year's Shriver Cup (Elizabeth, Ewing, Hamilton West, Montgomery, Raritan-Hazlet, Union County, and Union City) were all part of SONJ's School Partnership Program, known as the Unified Strategy for Schools, meaning that their school offers not only Unified Sports opportunities, but also foster more inclusive school climates and offer leadership opportunities to people of all ability levels. Team Elizabeth was organized by Principals Jennifer Campel and Sulisnet Jimenez and coached by Steven Lake and Oliver Jimenez.



Special Olympics  
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## EQUITY

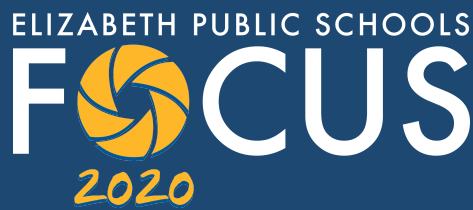
As a nation, America's Promise is that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity or social class, should receive a high quality, academically rich and rigorous public education.

## EXPECTATIONS

The concept of high expectations is premised on the philosophical and pedagogical belief that a failure to hold all students to high expectations effectively denies them access to a high quality education, since the educational achievement of students tends to rise or fall in direct relation to the expectations placed upon them.

## EXCELLENCE

Educational Excellence is defined as students performing at high levels or where students are making significant gains in academic achievement helping to prepare every child for global competitiveness.



## Student

**We believe ALL students can learn and achieve at high levels regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, neighborhood, household income or home language.**

*ALL Means ALL. We will narrow the achievement gaps of students by providing a high quality education to ensure that ALL of our students are college and career ready.*

## Teacher

**We believe teachers make a positive difference in student achievement. Teachers will prepare ALL students for success in college, career, and our technological global society.**

*We believe that teachers are central in a child's life. Having an effective teacher is the single most important factor in student success.*

## Leader

**We believe that effective leaders demonstrate unwavering commitment to high levels of achievement for ALL students.**

*Leaders will exemplify and support practices that promote high levels of achievement for ALL students.*

## Family

**We believe that parents and caregivers are both valued partners and active participants in their children's learning. A shared sense of mutual responsibility for learning is the foundation for family involvement to ensure student success.**

*We are committed to engaging parents and caregivers in their children's education. We will develop a coordinated strategy that enables parents and caregivers to play an active role in building and sustaining family support for their children's learning and academic success.*

## Team

**We believe that every member of the Elizabeth Public Schools Team has a responsibility in producing and supporting high levels of achievement for ALL students.**

*Every member of the Elizabeth Public Schools team will make a measurable contribution to the success and achievement for ALL students by ensuring equitable distribution of resources throughout the organization.*