



White House ConnectED to the Future Convening *Elizabeth Amongst Top Districts In The Nation*



"In a country where we expect free wifi with our coffee, we should expect our schools to be wired." — President Obama



Washington D.C.— November 19, 2014 – The White House and the U.S. Department of Education selected Olga Hugelmeyer, superintendent of the Elizabeth Public Schools, to participate in the ConnectED Conference at the White House in recognition of the district's commitment to Future Ready schools.

Hugelmeyer and more than 100 other exemplary district leaders from across the United States were recognized for their leadership in helping transition their districts to digital learning. The convening brought together leaders to share promising approaches for using technology to impact teaching and learning.

"School districts across the country are helping teachers harness the power of technology to create personal learning environments for all students," said Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education. "We want to make sure every child – whether he or she is in the inner-city, in a rural community or on a Native American reservation – has access to knowledge and the chance to learn 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

The White House convening will be followed by 12 Future Ready Regional Summits designed to help districts create and implement district-wide action plans to fulfill their pledge to use technology to transform learning.

EPS AT THE WHITE HOUSE



continued from 1st page

The summits will be held over the next year and be open to all district leaders that sign the Future Ready Pledge. The U.S. Department of Education will release two new guides to help districts improve their technology infrastructure and refine their professional learning plans.

“Future Ready highlights the critical role of district leaders in setting a vision and creating the environment where educators and students access the tools, content, and expertise necessary to thrive in a connected world,” said Richard Culatta Director of the Department’s Office of Educational Technology.

“Technology has the potential to transform education in America, allowing students to be more engaged, learn at their own pace, and to develop the knowledge and skills to be successful in the future,” Culatta said. “And yet, fewer than 30 percent of classrooms have the broadband internet to support today’s education technology needs.”

Starting in September 2014, Elizabeth Public Schools initiated a groundbreaking and transformative installation of their 1:1 computer initiative called ‘Leap to the Future,’ which is to provide every student in grades three through twelve the tools to access, create and collaborate as thriving, 21st century digital citizens.

For more on the work of the Department’s Office of Educational Technology, including resources for students, parents and educators, visit <http://tech.ed.gov>

How were the White House Convening participants selected?

A technical working group of Superintendents met to provide input on the pledge criteria and the review process. More than 800 nominees were then submitted from districts around the nation to participate. Reviewers from the Office of Educational Technology screened and scored nominations using a rubric aligned to each pillar of the Future Ready Pledge. 150 superintendents were invited to participate in the White House Convening on November 19th. Elizabeth was one of those featured districts.



President Obama: US Needs to Bring Schools Into 21st Century

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama called on local school officials Wednesday to help meet his goal of bringing high-speed Internet to virtually every American student within a few years to help them compete with counterparts in countries who already use technology to help them learn. "One of the things that we also need to do is to yank our schools into the 21st century when it comes to technology," he said.

Currently, less than 40 percent of U.S. public schools have high-speed Internet connections in their classrooms, Obama said, adding: "That's not good, since we invented the Internet." By way of example, Obama said South Korea is replacing all textbooks with digital content and training teachers on how to use technology in the classroom. Singapore is outfitting every school with broadband that is 40 times faster than the connection in the average American home, he said.

"So we're going to have to step up our game if we're going to make sure that every child in America can go as far as their dreams and talents will take them," Obama said at a White House conference with more than 100 school superintendents and other educators who are helping their schools and districts transition to digital learning

excerpts from ASSOCIATED PRESS | Nov 19, 2014

Future Ready District Pledge



OFFICE OF
Educational Technology

I, Olga Hugelmeyer, Superintendent of Elizabeth Public Schools, do hereby affirm the commitment of this district to work with students, educators, families, and members of our community to become Future Ready by engaging in a wide range of activities such as:

■ Fostering and leading a culture of digital learning within our schools

Future Ready district leadership teams work collaboratively to transform teaching and learning using the power of technology to help drive continuous improvement. We work together to protect student privacy and to teach students to become responsible, engaged, and contributing digital citizens.

■ Helping schools and families transition to high-speed connectivity

Future Ready districts conduct comprehensive diagnostic assessments of the district's technology infrastructure and develop a sustainable plan to ensure broadband classroom connectivity and wireless access. Future Ready districts work with community partners to leverage local, state, and federal resources to support home Internet access outside of traditional school hours.

■ Empowering educators through professional learning opportunities

Future Ready districts strive to provide everyone with access to personalized learning opportunities and instructional experts that give teachers and leaders the individual support they need, when they need it. Future Ready districts provide tools to help teachers effectively leverage learning data to make better instructional decisions.

■ Accelerating progress toward universal access for all students to quality devices

Future Ready districts work with necessary stakeholders to ensure that all students and educators across the district have regular access to devices for learning. Future Ready districts develop tools to support a robust infrastructure for managing and optimizing safe and effective use of technology, so students have opportunities to be active learners, creating and sharing content, not just consuming it.

■ Providing access to quality digital content

Future Ready districts align, curate, create, and consistently improve digital materials and apps used in the support of learning. Future Ready districts use carefully selected high quality digital content that is aligned to college and career ready standards as an essential part of daily teaching and learning. Teachers are able to share, discover, and adapt openly-licensed materials and teaching plans.

■ Offering digital tools to help students and families Reach Higher

Future Ready districts make digital resources available that help access expanded college, career, and citizenship opportunities. Future Ready districts promote ways to leverage technology to expand equity through digital activities such as completion of the FAFSA online, virtual counseling services, college scholarship search tools, and online advising access, all of which help to return America to the nation in the world with the highest college completion rate by 2020.

■ Mentoring other districts and helping them transition to digital learning

Future Ready districts work to design, implement, and share their technology plans. Future Ready districts join regional summits, participate in an online Connected Superintendents' community of practice, and publish their Future Ready technology plan at a site such as www.MyDistrict.org/FutureReady.



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

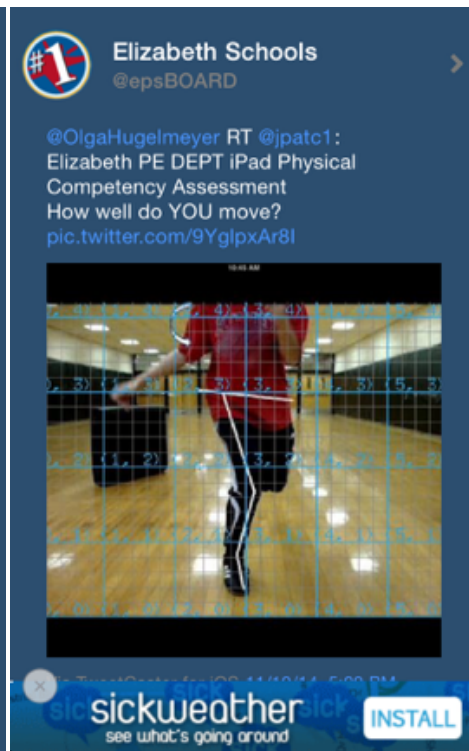
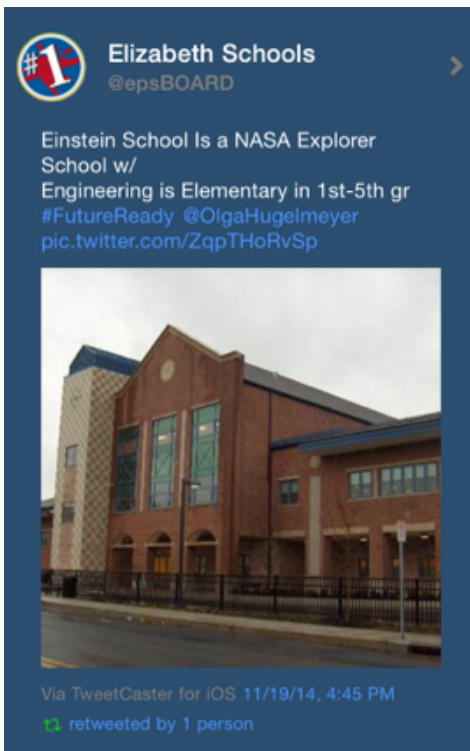
White House "ConnectED to the Future" Superintendents Recognized for their leadership of Future Ready Schools:

Albemarle County Public Schools, VA – Pam Moran
Alton Community School District #11, IL – Kenneth Spells
Ardakelphia Public Schools, AR – Donnie Whitten
Arlington ISD, TX – Marcelo Cavazos
Arlington Public Schools, VA – Patrick Murphy
Avonworth School District, PA – Thomas Ralston
Ballico-Cressey Elementary School District, CA – Bryan Ballenger
Barrington 220 School District, IL – Brian Harris
Beaver Area School District, PA – Carrie Rowe
Bristol Township School District, PA – Samuel Lee
Butte County Office of Education, CA – Tim Taylor
Camas School District, WA – Jeff Snell
Charlottesville Cty Public Schools, VA – Rosa Atkins
Chelmsford Public Schools, MA – Frank Tiano
Chester County School District, SC – Agnes Slayman
Chula Vista Elementary School District, CA – Francisco Escobedo
Clarke County School District, GA – Philip Lanoue
Clayton County Public Schools, GA – Luvenia Jackson
Clinton Community School District, IA – Deborah Olson
Coachella Valley Unified School District, CA – Darryl Adams
Community Consolidated School District 59, IL – Art Fessler
Corcoran Unified School District, CA – Rich Merlo
Corona-Norco Unified School District, CA – Michael Lin
Cumberland County Public Schools, VA – Amy Griffin
Dripping Springs ISD, TX – Bruce Gearing
Dysart Unified School District, AZ – Gail Pletnick
East Noble School Corporation, IN – Ann Linson
El Haynes Public Charter School, DC – Jennifer Niles
El Paso ISD, TX – Juan Cabrera
Elizabeth Forward School District, PA – Bart Rocco
Elizabeth Public Schools, NJ – Olga Hugelmeyer
Eminence Independent Schools, KY – Buddy Berry
Evergreen School District, CA – Katherine Gomez
Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, CA – Kris Corey
Fall Creek School District, WI – Joe Sanfelippo
Freehold Regional High School District, NJ – Charles Sampson
Freehold Township Schools, NJ – Ross Kasun
Fullerton School District, CA – Robert Pletka
Galt Joint Union Elementary School District, CA – Karen Schauer
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools, MI – David Britten
Goochland County Public Schools, VA – James Lane
Gurnee School District 56, IL – John Hutton
Haddonfield School District, NJ – Richard Perry
Hall County Schools, GA – Will Schofield
Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District, TX – Arturo Cavazos
Hawaii Public Schools, HI – Kathryn Matayoshi
Hickory City Schools, NC – Walter Hart
Highline School District, WA – Susan Enfield
Houston ISD, TX – Terry Grier
Howard County Public School System, MD – Renee Foose
Howard-Winneshiek CSD, IA – John Carver
Ithaca City School District, NY – Luvelle Brown
Jackson County School District 9, OR – Cynda Rickert
Jacksonville City School District, AL – Jon Campbell
Kent School District, WA – Dr. Edward Lee Vargas
Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative, KY – Jeff Hawkins
Lakeville Area Public Schools, MN – Lisa Snyder

Lawrence Public Schools USD 497, KS – Jerri Kemble
Lewisville ISD, TX – Stephen Waddell
Lindsay Unified School District, CA – Thomas Rooney
Madison-Grant United School Corporation, IN – John Trout
Maricopa County Education Service Agency, AZ – Don Covey
McAlester Public Schools, OK – Marsha Gore
McGuffey School District, PA – Erica Kolat
Mentor Exempted Village, OH – Matthew Miller
Metropolitan School District of Wabash County, IN – Sandra Weaver
Miami-Dade County Public Schools, FL – Alberto Carvalho
Middletown City School District, NY – Kenneth Eastwood
Mineola Union Free School District, NY – Michael Nagler
Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools, NC – Anthony Jackson
New Braunfels ISD, TX – Randy Moczygemba
North Boone CUSD 200, IL – Steven Baule
Northwest ISD, TX – Karen Rue
Oceanside Unified School District, CA – Duane Coleman
Onslow County Schools, NC – Rick Stout
Palisades School District, PA – Bridget O'Connell
Paoli Community School Corporation, IN – Casey Brewster
Pascack Valley Regional High School District, NJ – P. Erik Gundersen
Piedmont City, AL – Matt Akin
Pomona Unified School District, CA – Richard Martinez
Porter Township School Corporation, IN – Stacey Schmidt
Portola Valley School District, CA – Dr. Lisa Marie Gonzales
Poway Unified School District, CA – John Collins
Presidio ISD, TX – Dennis McEntire
Regional School District No. 6, CT – Edward Drapp
Revere Public Schools, MA – Paul Dakin
Reynoldsburg City Schools, OH – Tina Thomas-Manning
Roanoke County Public Schools, VA – Lorraine Lange
Saint Helena Unified School District, CA – Marylou Wilson
School District of Philadelphia, PA – William Hite
Seminole County Public Schools, FL – Walt Griffin
Sioux City Community School District, IA – Paul Gausman
Sitka School District, AK – Mary Wegner
Somerville Public Schools, NJ – Timothy Purnell
South Fayette Township School District, PA – Bille Rondinelli
Spartanburg 07 School District, SC – Russell Booker
St. Vrain Valley Schools, CO – Don Haddad
Summit Public Schools, NJ – Julie Glazer
Summit Public Schools, CA – Diane Tavenner
Talladega County Schools, AL – Suzanne Lacey
Union Public Schools, OK – Kirtis Hartzler
Urbana School District #116, IL – Donald Owen
USD No. 448–Inman Schools, KS – Kevin Case
Utica Community Schools, MI – Christine Johns
Vista Unified School District, CA – Devin Vodicka
Warsaw Community Schools, IN – David Hoffert
Washington Township, IN – Nikki Woodson
Wauwatosa School District, WI – Phillip Ertl
Wayzata Public Schools, MN – Chace B. Anderson
West Ada, ID – Linda Clark
West Morris Regional High School District, NJ – Mackey Pendergrast
West Warwick Public Schools, RI – Karen Tarasevich
Westminster Community Charter School, NY – Ayinde Rudolph
Westside Community Schools, NE – Blane McCann
Yorktown Community Schools, IN – Jennifer McCormick

For more information visit tech.ed.gov/FutureReady

EPS on Twitter and #FutureReady



#FutureReady



White House "ConnectED to the Future" Superintendents Recognized for their leadership of #FutureReady Schools:



President Obama's ConnectED initiative will enrich K-12 education for America's students by providing teachers with the best technology and the training to make the most of it, and empowering students through individualized learning and rich, digital content. Preparing our students with the skills they need to get good jobs and compete with other countries relies increasingly on interactive, personalized learning experiences driven by new technology.

ConnectED is built atop the President's challenge to connect 99% of American students in their classrooms and libraries with next-generation broadband and wireless connectivity within five years. He has also called on businesses, states, districts, schools, and communities to come together in support of this vision of next-generation classrooms, better able to meet the needs of competition in a global economy.

In the first year since the President announced the ConnectED initiative, private-sector companies have committed to provide schools across the country with more than \$2 billion worth of free hardware, software, educational content, and wireless connectivity. And the FCC has pledged to invest an additional \$2 billion to connect 20 million more students to fast broadband and wireless in their classrooms, over the next two years, as a down-payment on meeting the President's "99-in-5" connectivity goal.

Future Ready superintendents demonstrate effective use of technology in some of the following ways:

- Fostering and leading a culture of collaboration and digital citizenship;
- Transitioning schools and families to high-speed connectivity;
- Empowering educators with professional learning opportunities;
- Accelerating progress toward universal access to quality devices;
- Providing access to quality digital content;
- Creating access, equity, and excellence – particularly in rural, remote, and low-income districts;
- Offering digital tools to students and families to help them prepare for success in college;
- Sharing best practices and mentoring other districts in the transition to digital learning.

For more information visit tech.ed.gov/FutureReady

Support for Schools as a Result of the ConnectED Initiative

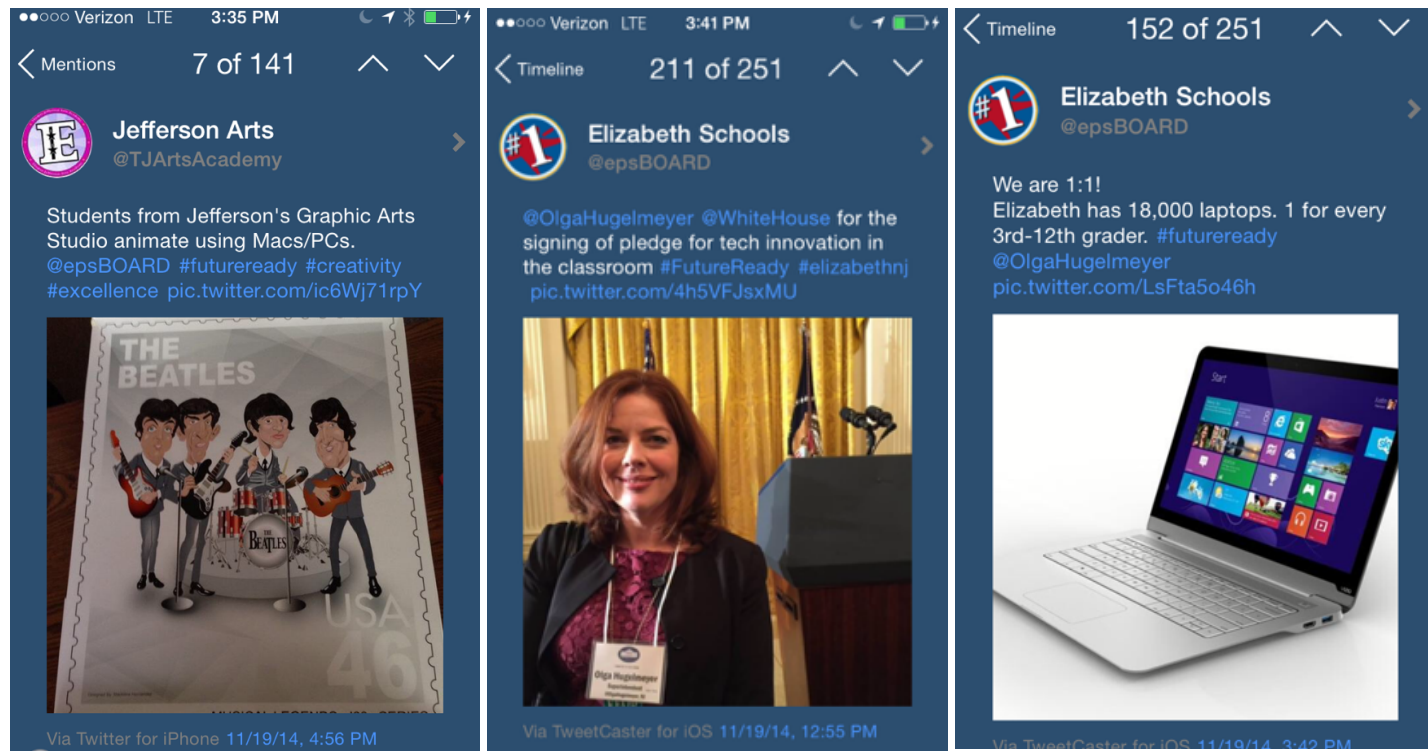
Yesterday's White House "ConnectED to the Future" convening featured new commitments from private and non-profit partners and from the U.S. Department of Education to support educators as they transition to digital learning, including:

Support for State and Local Educational Leaders: In partnership with the Alliance for Excellent Education, the U.S. Department of Education will host 12 regional summits for Future Ready school districts, to assist local educational leaders as they develop and implement action plans to use technology to personalize learning across their school districts. Secretary Duncan will also issue guidance to state and local superintendents, to support technology and digital learning as an allowable use of more than \$27 billion in federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Access to Virtual Learning for Teachers and Students: **EdX** has committed to provide free online coursework from top universities, including free course certificates to teachers and high-school students in high-need schools. All students will have free access to all Advanced Placement-level courses offered through EdX. In addition, **Coursera** will provide no-cost online professional development at every school district over the next two years, including opportunities for teachers to earn Coursera's completion certificates which may be used for continuing education credits. The company is partnering with leading schools of education to further expand its teacher professional learning offerings.



EPS has taken the Future Ready Pledge



Support for Schools as a Result of the ConnectED Initiative – (continued)

Future Ready Technology Infrastructure Guide: The U.S. Department of Education will issue a new technical assistance guide that outlines specific and tangible examples that will help schools improve their technological infrastructure by getting high-speed broadband Internet connectivity to and throughout schools, choosing devices for learning and establishing policy and procedures for their use.

Future Ready Professional Learning Toolkit: The U.S. Department of Education will issue a new technical assistance toolkit that provides rubrics, checklists and examples to assist district teams as they develop, refine, and evaluate professional learning plans that align with their capacity, learning goals, and standards of professional learning. In particular, the toolkit focuses on how districts can use technology to connect educators and provide tailored professional learning experiences.

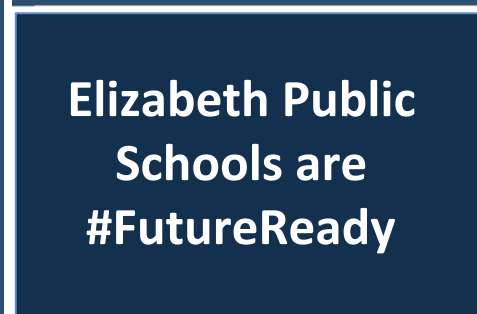
For more information, please visit Superintendents@Ed.Gov, and follow us on Twitter [@OfficeOfEdTech](https://twitter.com/OfficeOfEdTech) #FutureReady.

Next Steps In Becoming #FutureReady

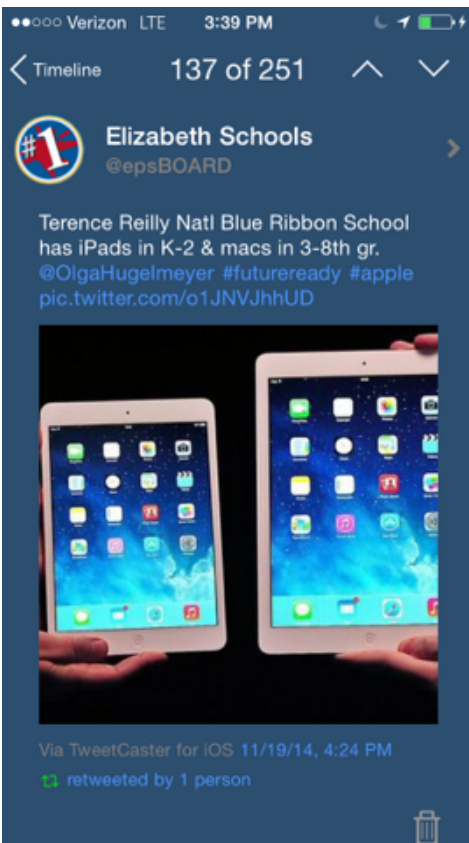
Throughout the course of the day, Superintendents experienced inspiring videos that defined the Future Ready initiative. This was followed by Ignite presentations that defined the strategies necessary to support Future Ready teaching and learning. Superintendent's also engaged in a discussion on how progress and success is measured for a Future Ready student. The day concluded with the opportunity to discuss our next steps and field questions both to Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education and Richard Culatta, USDOE Director of Educational Technology.

As Superintendents, we have committed to developing a 'Future Ready vision' and building our Future Ready District Plan as a digital product for both our school community and to be shared with the USDOE, Office of Educational Technology by posting on Superintendents@ed.gov. Our district is committed to ensuring that our district team members and our students' voices are represented in the development of this plan.

The President's expectations are that as educational leaders, we will foster a culture of learning through technology across our schools; assist our students and their families in the transition to high-speed connectivity; provide our learners greater access to high-quality digital devices and content; and provide teachers and principals the support needed to use technology in innovative ways.

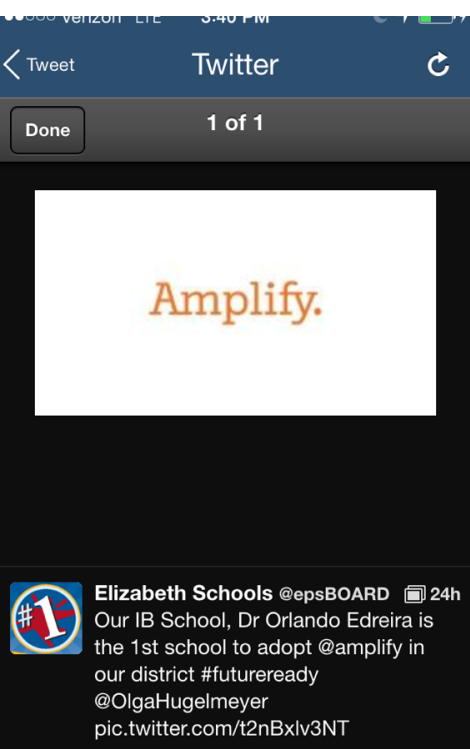
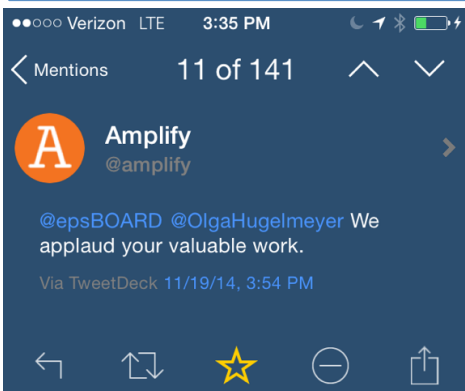


VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE



Elizabeth is #FutureReady...

Future Ready schools successfully incorporate the infrastructure, devices, professional development, content and human capacity necessary to successfully implement the ConnectedED Initiative and have become local exemplars of an effective transition to digital learning.





Equity • Expectations • Excellence

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.



Equity • Expectations • Excellence

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.