



New Tech Network

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Reimagining teaching and learning

New Tech Network is a non-profit organization that helps high school students gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life, college, and the careers of tomorrow. We work nationwide with schools, districts, and communities to provide services and support that enable schools to implement innovative high schools that promote deeper learning.

We began in the mid-90s in Napa, California. The local schools were meeting education standards, and the community thought of Napa High School as a good school. However, local business leaders remained concerned that meeting basic standards would not be enough to ensure that students were graduating with the skills needed to meet the needs of the new economy.

These business and community leaders decided to make a difference. Working with the local school district, they began researching innovations in education to re-imagine what a truly great school might be like. In 1996, the Napa Valley Unified School District established Napa New Technology High School with the first class of 100 students.

As Napa New Technology High School thrived, local business leaders and education advocates came together to ensure the school's long-term success and sustainability by establishing the New Tech Foundation. In 2001, New Tech was awarded a \$6 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. With this funding, New Tech was charged with launching 14 schools over three years.

From this initial launch, New Tech has continued to grow. In the 2006-07 school year, New Tech opened 23 new sites with clusters in Los Angeles, North Carolina, Texas, and Indiana, supported by an online learning system, Echo. In 2009, New Tech became a subsidiary of KnowledgeWorks, allowing New Tech to further expand its reach. In 2011, New Tech had its greatest growth ever, opening 31 new schools.

Today, our name is New Tech Network and we support 86 public schools in 16 states. We have schools in rural, urban and suburban districts that serve diverse communities. We work with districts to expand our work through K-12.

New Tech schools leverage what research tells us about how people learn to create an

exceptional teaching and learning environment. Based on this research and our own experience, we create a rigorous and engaging high school experience that features project-based learning, the seamless use of technology, and a positive and empowering school culture.

Project-based learning (PBL) is at the heart of our instructional approach. In PBL, learning is contextual, creative, and shared. Students collaborate on projects that require critical thinking and presentation skills. By making learning relevant in this way, student engagement reaches new levels and produces better educational outcomes.

The deep use of technology supports our innovative approach to instruction and culture. All classrooms have a one-to-one computing ratio. Every student becomes a self-directed learner who no longer needs to rely primarily on teachers or textbooks for knowledge and direction. We have developed a robust learning management system, NTN Echo. Echo facilitates a vibrant network which helps students, teachers, administration and parents connect. This system houses extensive project and resource libraries shared among all schools in the network.

Finally, each New Tech school maintains a culture that promotes trust, respect, and responsibility. At our schools, students and teachers alike have exceptional ownership of the learning experience and their school environment. Working on projects and in teams, students are accountable to their peers and acquire a level of responsibility similar to what they would experience in a professional work environment.

With project-based learning, the seamless use of technology, and a distinct school culture, we prepare our students with the skills needed to be successful in today's world beyond high school.

Our approach is working. In 2009-10, New Tech Network (NTN) schools demonstrated high levels of student engagement and continued growth along several measures of academic progress. Results on Reading and Science achievement, college acceptance rates, and behavioral indicators point to strong performance levels among many New Tech schools. New Tech students are exceptional because we teach and assess the skills they need to succeed in life, college, and the careers of tomorrow.

Based on the success of our schools, we are embarking on another period of rapid growth. Our goals include:

- Creating sustainable plans for district-wide transformation
- Adding and creating new schools and classrooms that impact education on a national scale
- Moving the New Tech approach into middle and elementary schools

We help students achieve their dreams by preparing them for "what's next" after high school, including life, college, and careers. We offer what every student in America deserves: a quality education that gives each young man or woman the knowledge and skills needed to succeed.