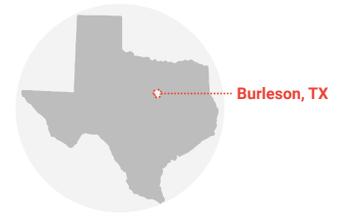


Burleson Independent School District



Burleson Independent School District sits twelve miles south of downtown Fort Worth, Texas. Burleson wanted to create more innovative thinkers by challenging traditional learning methods, supporting science and technology initiatives, and increasing their students' global understanding. The goal was not to become more efficient in education but to leverage the power of technology to bring learning to life. The success of pilot Chromebook programs inspired the district to create specialized schools and plan to have a Chromebook for every 3rd–12th grade student by the end of the 2017–18 school year.

District facts

Public school district

Total district enrollment

10,744 **675**
Students Teachers

Grades served

Pre-K > **12**

Number of schools

17 
10 Elementary schools
3 Middle schools
4 High schools

Google tools

6,087 Chromebooks
5 Years using Chromebooks
4 Years using G Suite for Education
100% Students using G Suite for Education

Free/reduced price lunch


33.8%
of students qualify

G Suite for Education tools used



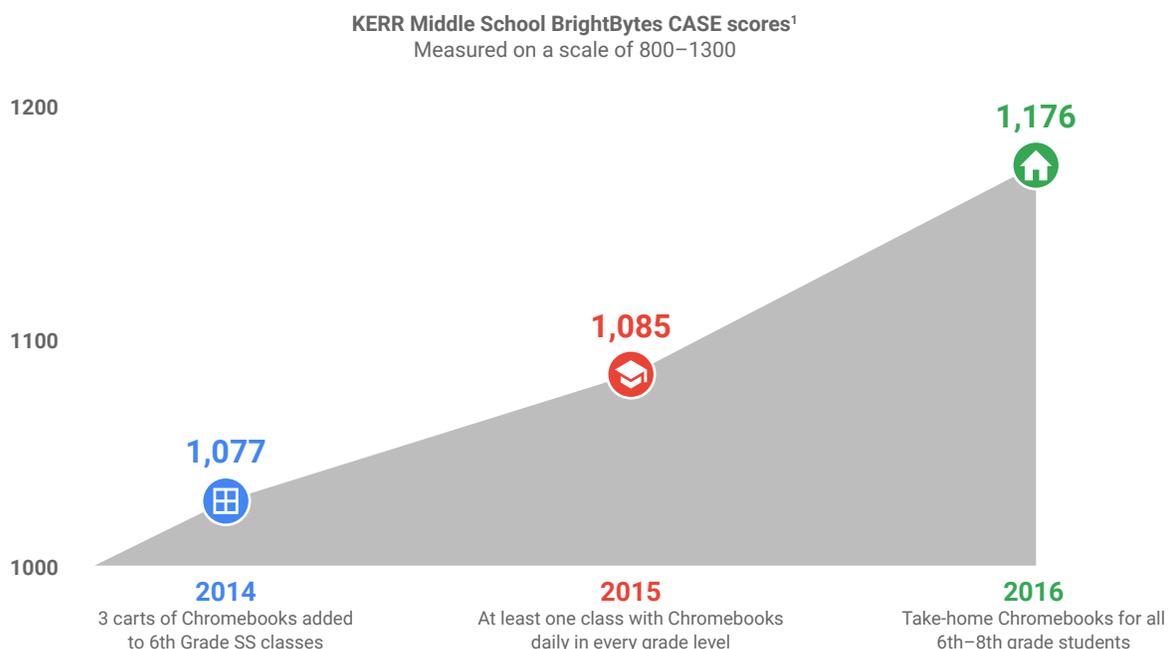
Why Chromebooks

- Google Drive encouraged student accountability and drastically reduced the number of unsubmitted assignments.
- Chromebooks and G Suite in every classroom became the foundation for the development of advanced and specialized schools.
- The district used Chromebooks and G Suite to create a gamified curriculum to teach students coding and video game design.
- Teachers used G Suite, Chromebooks, and blended learning to boost student engagement and increase performance.
- Teachers earned Google Educator Certifications, deepening their understanding and investment in the programs.
- Chromebooks and G Suite provided tools to connect and collaborate across the world and create more globally-aware students.

Results

Inspired by Google's "10x thinking," Burleson has worked to improve their district dramatically. They created an Academic Innovations department with the goal of finding new and creative opportunities for the district. Working with Google technology has changed the way the entire district thinks about education and the culture surrounding it. Because Google technology has allowed the district to develop new programs,

they recently applied for a waiver from the state to restructure their school year to suit the needs of the new curriculum. "Google technology is great," says Kim Estes, Lead Learning Technologies Coach, "Did it improve our test scores? I don't even know if that matters because it changed the way we think and it's changing the way our kids learn. That's been the biggest benefit of using Google in our school."



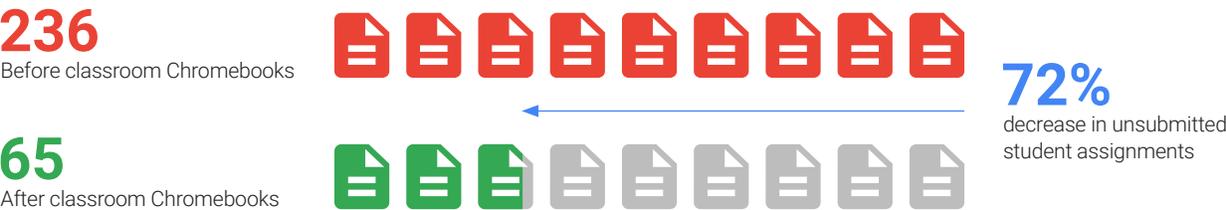
¹BrightBytes CASE framework measures the impact of technology on learning outcomes. BrightBytes measures four domains: Classroom, Access, Skills, and Environment.

Early success through the power of technology

Early Chromebook pilot programs began with high school English classes in the 2013–14 school year. “I absolutely love using the Chromebooks,” a Burluson student said, “They allow us to spend more time on the actual content and substance of our essays.” Encouraged by this success and positive feedback from students, parents, and

the community, the district sought more ways to integrate technology and improve the quality of their students’ school experiences. This went beyond just bringing Chromebooks and G Suite into classrooms. Burluson moved to redesign entire schools and integrate Google technology into their very foundations.

The Chromebook difference in Angela Conn’s English class
The number of unsubmitted student assignments



Creating a new way to learn

When STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) Middle School of Choice opened in 2015, it was the first district school to adopt a 1:1 Chromebook model. STEAM combined blended learning with a focus on hands-on learning, applying classroom solutions to real-life challenges and engaging the 4Cs: Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Creativity. Chromebooks and G Suite became the cornerstone for STEAM’s immersive curriculum. Students carry a “Trust Card” that allows them to leave class and go work in one of the collaborative spaces or the Makerspace, a shared workspace with both high and low-tech

tools. Students also take self-paced online classes on subjects like Digital Citizenship.

Chromebooks and G Suite helped STEAM students surpass every other middle school in the district in State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness. They also outperformed every other district school based on BrightBytes’ CASE Technology Framework, which measures the impact of technology on learning outcomes. Successful and extremely popular—95% of eligible students re-enroll each year—STEAM Middle sparked the launch of a matching elementary school program: STEAM Academy at Stribling.

Chromebooks help teachers engage the 4Cs



Video games meet education

Building on the success of STEAM, Burlison launched the REALM (Rigorous Educational Arcade Learning Model) in 2016. REALM reimagined learning by applying video game mechanics and game design to lessons. The school became the second in the district to utilize a 1:1 device model and relies on G Suite to support the tech-heavy curriculum. REALM is located on the top floor of a middle school and is accessed through a door with the gamer-friendly title "The Portal." Enrolled students take classes like PE and Foreign Language at the main school and head back through The Portal for all other classes. The program has no bell schedule. Students build their own weekly schedules with their mentor teacher every Monday. Gamified lessons challenge students' critical thinking and problem solving skills, and students work toward creating their own video games to present in their third year.



Giving teachers the tools they want

Google technology has also changed the way Burlison supports their teachers and staff. Professional development is available year-round through webinars, face-to-face sessions, academies, retreats, and small group sessions. The district provided 116 hours of professional development for teachers last summer alone and will boost that number to 120 hours this summer. "It's become part of our culture," says Estes, "The technology is an important enough educational tool, and we know it has improved our instruction."

Teachers learn how G Suite helps them become more productive both in and out of the classroom and then pass those skills along to their students. STEAM Middle School requires teachers to receive Google Educator Level 1 certifications in their first year and Level 2 certifications in their second as a way to keep them invested and up-to-date with Google technology. All teachers can also get additional time off, Earned Off-Days, by attending professional training sessions.

"It's become part of our culture, the technology is an important enough educational tool, and we know it has improved our instruction."

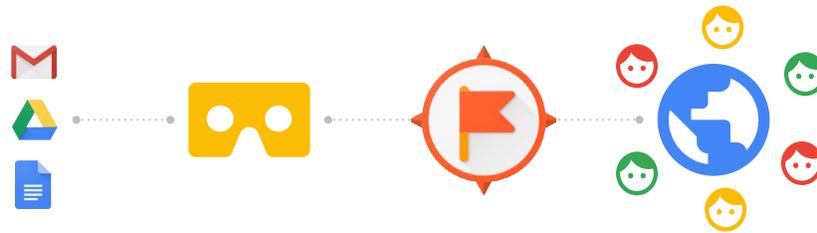
Kim Estes, Lead Learning Technologies Coach at Burlison

Encouraging global citizens

It was important to the leaders at Burleson that they expand the worldview of their students beyond the borders of their Texas district. To this end, teacher Stephen Blan participated in the U.S. Department of State's Teachers for Global Classrooms program. Google technology became the perfect way for Blan to stay connected to his 6th-grade World Cultures class while he traveled through Europe. Through a combination of classroom Chromebook access and G Suite, students shared Blan's experience in real-time. Students researched places for Blan to visit and he'd share pictures. One suggested location was a McDonald's in Ukraine that had a living wall of herbs. Blan then challenged students to guess which herbs were planted on the wall based on the pictures and their research of the region.

Along with traveling teachers, the district found other ways for their students to experience the world beyond Texas. Burleson was chosen to beta test Google Expeditions which it used to implement virtual field trips. "We're excited about

VR and its ability to take our students to places that time, finances, and geography prohibit us from visiting," says Estes. They continue to develop more student experiences through VR work with Google Cardboard and look forward to bringing the technology into classrooms on a more regular basis. Beyond virtual field trips, students have also found ways to connect with and learn from students across the world. "We've talked to the sub-governor of Afghanistan," said Estes, "We've talked to kids in Japan. We've talked to kids in New York." With the help of a nonprofit, 6th graders at Kerr Middle School partnered with a school in Guinea, Africa. G Suite allowed the students to have real-time video chats and quickly collaborate on assignments across time zones. The partnership inspired Kerr's students to examine their own community in new ways. Students from Guinea asked if people go hungry in America. Kerr students began to question and research hunger in the U.S. and Texas. They shared their final Google Slides presentation with their community and the class in Guinea.



Conclusion

Burleson Independent School District used their early success with Google technology to ignite change across their district. Bringing in Chromebooks and G Suite sparked the

development of new schools, specialized programs, and international collaboration. Google technology and innovation has revolutionized the way Burleson tackles learning.

"G Suite and our Chromebooks are the threads woven into everything that we do. It ties us together as a campus, a district, and a community."

Kim Estes, Lead Learning Technologies Coach at Burleson



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