



**digiLEARN**

CUTTING OUT

COOKIE-CUTTER SCHOOLS

PERSONALIZING LEARNING  
THROUGH COLLABORATION &  
SUPPORT

---

September 2017

Our nation is facing a  
persistent **achievement**  
and **skills gap**



**10 MILLION**

Americans are  
unemployed

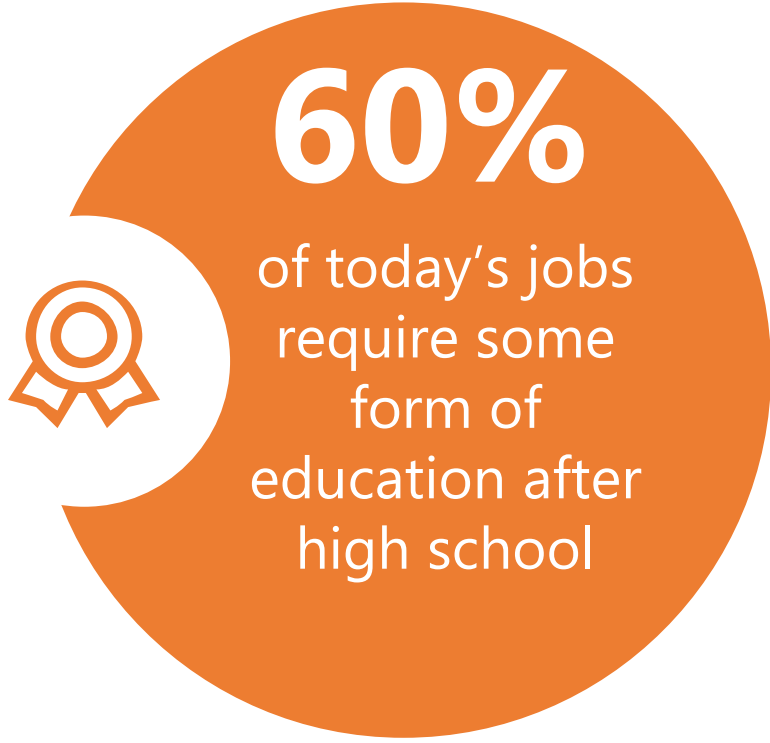
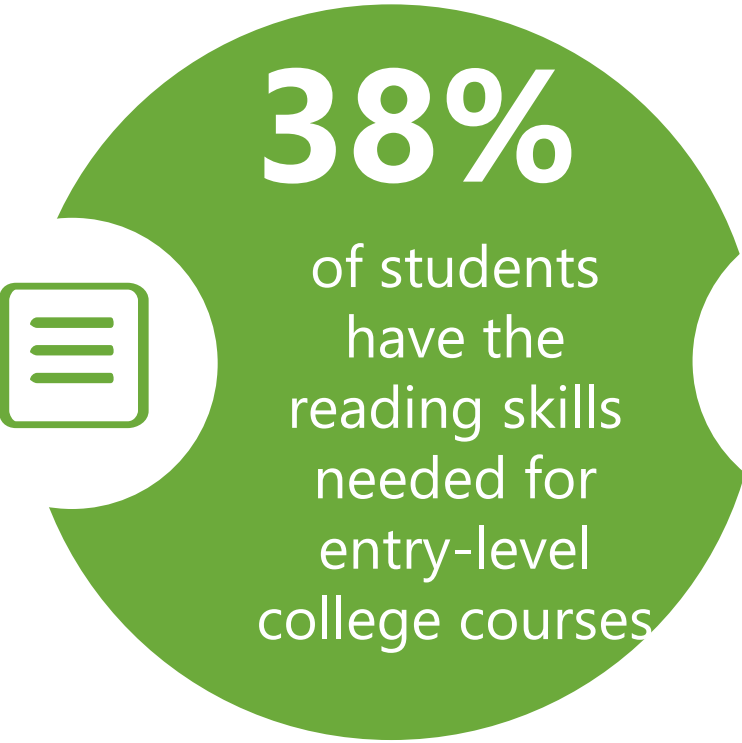
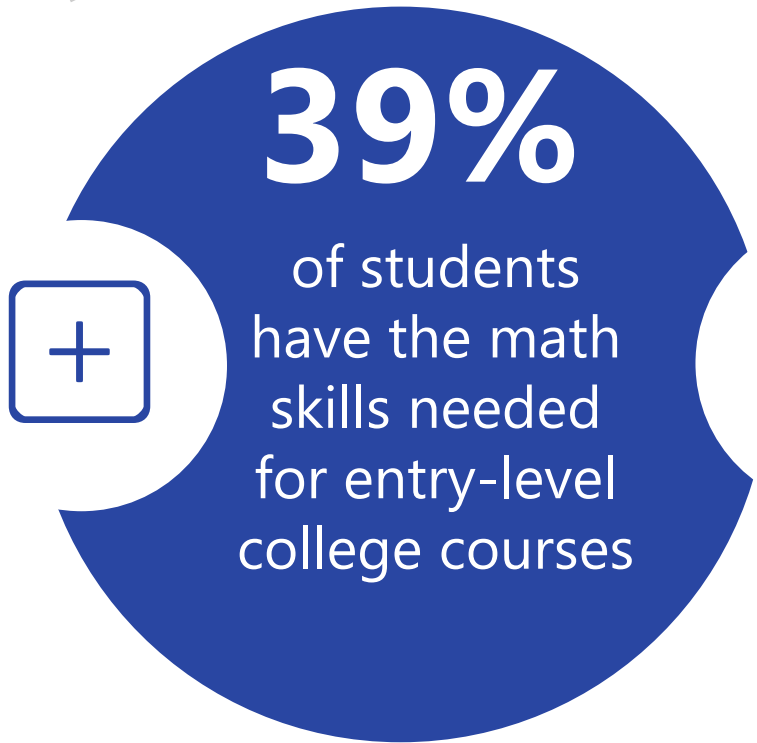


**THE SKILLS  
GAP**

The diagram features two blue rectangular bars with white text, tilted at an angle. The top bar contains the words 'THE SKILLS' and the bottom bar contains 'GAP'. Dotted lines extend from the top and bottom of the bars towards the statistics on either side of the slide.

**4 MILLION**  
jobs are available  
and unfilled

# THE SKILLS GAP



Yet, we are using  
**outdated** tools &  
methods to prepare our  
children for the future.



# 11.6

**MILLION**

students lack access to satisfactory broadband speeds

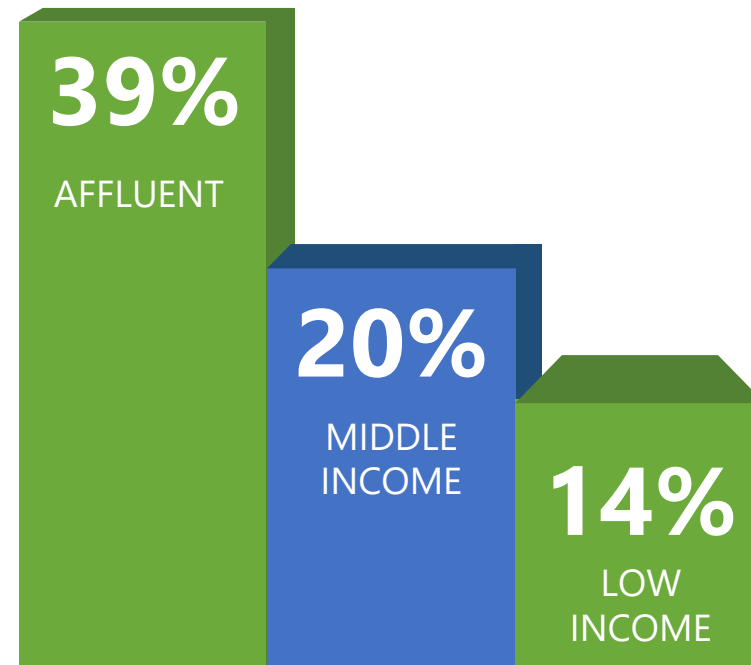
# 19,000

**SCHOOLS**

do not meet the minimum bandwidth goal\* for digital learning

## WEALTHIER SCHOOLS

are more likely to meet the minimum bandwidth goal\* for digital learning than low-income schools





“

When carefully implemented, it's impossible to overestimate the potential that technology has to transform education.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR JEB BUSH

”

# BENEFITS OF A DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

---



## PERSONALIZES LEARNING

Learning is personalized based on each student's needs and interests



## IMPROVES DATA

Parents and teachers receive better data and insights about each student



## MORE INTERACTIVE

Learning is more hands-on and interactive



## IMPROVES QUALITY

Students have access to high-quality courses, instructors, and materials



## BROADENS ACCESS

Broadens access to more students

Teachers have access to high-quality teaching materials and tools to implement in the classroom



# TECHNOLOGY IS INTEGRAL TO THE FUTURE OF LEARNING



Student success in a digital world depends on an innovative education ecosystem that helps teachers be more effective in the classroom.



Equitable



Supportive



Collaborative



Data-Driven



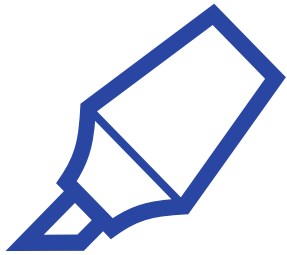
Fueled by  
Technology



Common  
Standards

# WE ARE ON A MISSION TO CUT OUT COOKIE-CUTTER SCHOOLS

---



Increase personalized  
learning options for  
students



Expand instructional access  
and opportunities for  
teachers



Cultivate an innovative  
economy for EdTech  
entrepreneurs

# BY COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE

---

DIGILEARN partners with state leaders across the country to plan and implement their own visions for digital learning. We help them:

**1**

## **HACK THE SYSTEM**

Hacking the system mean to influence policies to work in service of your organization's mission and vision. We partner and collaborate with key stakeholders in the public and private sector to make digital learning possible for all students.

**2**

## **SUPPORT TEACHERS**

We build the capacity of our teachers through our one-of-a-kind Digital Scholars Initiative where teachers become beacons of innovation in their home schools.



1

HACKING THE SYSTEM  
THROUGH COLLABORATION

# THE STRATEGIC POLICY PLAYBOOK

## DRIVING INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

**STRATEGIC POLICY CHANGE** depends on a group of disparate stakeholders, sometimes adversaries, sharing a vision for change and agreeing to collaborate. Schools can only change when state and local policies support and fund innovation in education. The Strategic Policy Playbook introduces six strategic activities that are necessary to policy change.

**01** Prepare for the initiative.

**02** Ensure consistent, qualified leadership.

**03** Establish a shared vision.

**04** Understand key partners and players.

**05** Create a strategy to reach that vision.

**06** Assess the work and remain focused on the vision.



DOWNLOAD NOW

# PROVEN SUCCESS IN NORTH CAROLINA



digiLEARN founder, Beverly Perdue, convened a unique alliance of stakeholders who influence the future of learning.



Together, this group committed to improving digital learning for every learner in the state.



Connected every public school in North Carolina to broadband speeds required for digital learning

1.5M

STUDENTS CONNECTED

3,000

PUBLIC & PRIVATE SCHOOLS  
CONNECTED



“

In a country where we expect free Wi-Fi with our coffee, why shouldn't we have it in our schools? Why wouldn't we have it available for our children?

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

”



?



BUILDING THE  
CAPACITY OF TEACHERS



# DIGITAL SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

**THE MISSION** of the Digital Scholars Initiative is to accelerate innovation, personalized learning, and design thinking opportunities for schools and school districts.



## LEARNING INSTITUTES


Institutes for students, teachers, entrepreneurs, and researchers to collaboratively develop solutions through a formal design thinking process



## INNOVATIVE LEARNING CAMPS

Camps for students and teachers to collaborate with entrepreneurs and companies and experience new products, content, and tools for digital and personalized learning. The camps also provide entrepreneurs with invaluable user feedback.

# DIGITAL SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

A photograph of two women in a classroom or office setting. One woman is sitting at a desk with a laptop, looking at the screen. The other woman is standing next to her, looking at the laptop. The background shows a classroom with bookshelves and a whiteboard.

**DIGITAL SCHOLARS** are leading the charge to infuse our education ecosystem with the continuous support, resources, and knowledge necessary to fully adopt digital and personalized learning in our schools.

- 01** Take on invaluable leadership roles at their home schools and districts while remaining practicing teachers.
- 02** They use their classrooms as learning labs for other teachers to observe and learn new instructional practices.
- 03** They collaborate with entrepreneurs to design solutions that will help their schools better innovate and design new learning models.



# THE ASK

WE ARE SEEKING FUNDING TO EXPAND  
AND SCALE OUR REGIONAL WORK &  
DIGITAL SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

# YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

● Regional Goals   ● Digital Scholars Goals

2016–2017	2017–2019	2019–2021
● Develop the Digital Scholars Initiative Model	● Add 5 to 10 more school districts in & outside of NC	● Add 10 more school districts in & outside of NC
● Pilot a cadre of 20 Digital Scholars	● Establish a Lead Digital Scholar	● Add 2 Lead Digital Scholars
● Develop Innovation Learning Camps	● Increase the number of Digital Scholars to 40	● Increase number of Digital Scholars to 60
● Develop Digital Repository	● Develop Digital Repository	● Digital Scholars Training ongoing
● Establish partnership with other national groups	● Initial Digital Scholars cadre trains new cadre	● Digital Repository used regularly by all teachers who also contribute
● Develop Entrepreneur/Teacher Model for new learning models	● Digital Scholars host/lead at least one Innovation Camp	● Innovation Camps ongoing
	● Entrepreneur/Teacher Model for new learning models, content tools, etc.	● Entrepreneur/Teacher Partnerships increasing
● Develop regional model for state leadership teams in the Southeastern U.S.	● Expand regional model for state leadership teams to other regions in the country	● Annual regional meeting for state leadership teams ongoing
	● Establish annual regional meetings in partnership with other organizations (i.e. SREB)	

# YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP US INCREASE OUR IMPACT



## **PREPARING STUDENTS TO BE PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS**

(Economically, civic-minded,  
socially active, responsible) in a  
digital world.



## **CREATING INNOVATIVE LEARNING MODELS**

THAT PROVIDE EQUITY AND  
PREPARE STUDENTS FOR A  
DIGITAL WORLD.



## **CULTIVATING A NEW ED TECH MARKET ECOLOGY**

DRIVEN BY COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN TEACHERS AND  
ENTREPRENEURS.

# READY TO WORK TOGETHER?



CONNECT  
WITH US

digiLEARN.org

# DIGILEARN'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Honorable  
Beverly Perdue  
Founder and Chair



The Honorable  
Joe Tolson



Jessie  
Wilson-Woolley



Tom  
Vander Ark



The Honorable  
James Geringer  
Vice Chair



Susan Cates



Michael H.  
Levine



John Wilson



The Honorable  
Bob Wise



Terry Holiday



Tom Miller



Myra Best



The Honorable  
Craig Horn



Rick Stout



Jane Smith  
Patterson

# DIGILEARN'S FUNDING PARTNERS

BILL & MELINDA  
GATES *foundation*

*Carnegie*  
CORPORATION  
OF NEW YORK



Z. Smith Reynolds  
FOUNDATION



NORTH CAROLINA  
  
GlaxoSmithKline  
FOUNDATION