



SCHOOL2HOME: INCREASING OPPORTUNITY FOR CALIFORNIA'S AT-RISK MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Endorsed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and California Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, School2Home is a comprehensive program that will help more than 500 low-performing middle schools and up to 400,000 students and families across California benefit from cost-effective technology-based strategies that reduce the educational achievement gap and Digital Divide. Set to launch in the fall of 2009, School2Home will provide students, teachers and parents with broadband-connected laptops, technology training, and rich online educational resources. As the name implies, School2Home recognizes the equal importance of the school and home environments as places for learning, and works to enrich student opportunity by creating stronger connections between the two. Its large scale, evidence-based approach, and public-private partnership make it an unprecedented effort, both in California and nationally. This initiative is spearheaded by the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) and The Children's Partnership (TCP).

School2Home has three major goals:

- Increase digital literacy and educational performance among targeted middle school students.
- Improve their 21st Century skills so they can contribute to a more competitive workforce upon graduation.
- Strengthen the involvement of parents in the education of their child through the use of home-based digital technologies, and, in turn, expand the adoption of broadband technology.

School2Home's Focus on Low-Performing Schools

The School2Home program targets California's low-performing middle schools, defined as those schools that have not met Adequate Yearly Progress as outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act. Schools must also be receiving or eligible to receive Title I funding in order to participate.

California's low-performing schools serve high percentages of students of color and students from low-income households—the two demographic groups most at risk of low achievement and failing to graduate high school.^{1,2,3,4} By focusing on these schools, School2Home targets students who are statistically less likely to perform well in school and more likely to lack access to digital tools at home than their peers in high-performing schools.

The School2Home Program

The heart of the School2Home program lies in helping schools provide each student with a laptop computer to use at school and at home with his or her family. The program likewise involves creating 21st Century classrooms with wireless broadband connectivity and providing technology-rich professional development for teachers. School2Home also strengthens the connections between the home and school learning environments by providing affordable broadband at home and instructing parents in the use of home digital technology to connect with schools and to share learning opportunities with their child. School2Home's comprehensive, educational Web-based resources, online learning communities, and collaboration tools for students, teachers, and parents complete the program.

How School2Home Works With Schools

The School2Home program will be implemented by middle schools with assistance from the School2Home organization, a 501(c)(3) capacity-building entity. Schools will be invited to apply to participate in School2Home and will be asked to provide assurances related to school leadership, sustainability, evaluation, parent engagement, and staff commitment.

Some of the key services offered through the School2Home organization and its partners and contractors include:

- *Technology Assessments and School Engagement Planning Tools*, to help schools leaders and staff develop a shared vision for how to use technology to improve student outcomes and engage parents.



*School2Home: A Project of the California Emerging Technology Fund
Digital Literacy Initiative with The Children's Partnership*



- *Centralized Purchasing for Computing Devices, Broadband, Software, and Technical Support*, to reduce purchasing complexities and leverage volume purchase pricing discounts. School2Home will also help Internet access providers offer an introductory, affordable broadband service to underserved families.
- *Financial and Technical Assistance*, to help schools obtain favorable terms and conditions, and navigate and blend multiple categorical funding programs to support School2Home.
- *Educator Professional Development*, to provide core curriculum and trainers as well as access to additional online resources and services.
- *Parent Engagement and Training Programs*, to provide core curriculum and trainers in collaboration with existing parent and community-based organizations.
- *Centralized Web Services*, to facilitate communication and collaboration among parents, teachers, and students, enhance school efficiency, improve teacher effectiveness, and strengthen school-to-home learning.
- *Communications and Marketing Programs*, to inform target audiences of the program, its goals, and its policies.
- *Learning Communities and Networks*, to provide outlets where School2Home participants can actively learn together.

School2Home helps schools prepare for and then launch the School2Home program beginning with the lowest grade level at the school, usually 6th grade. School2Home will work with the school for three years.

How School2Home Will Be Financed

In the short term, School2Home will be financed with a combination of funding from participating schools, state and federal educational grant programs, and investments from the philanthropic and private sectors. In the first year of a school's participation, School2Home will match school funding by a 2-to-1 ratio. This will be reduced to a 1-to-1 ratio in the second year. A participating school will be expected to cover a large share of its costs during the third year in the program. Over time, the School2Home match will be phased down as the policy changes needed to sustain the program are obtained.

How School2Home Was Designed

School2Home is the result of a year of planning and analysis by a wide range of stakeholders. Program development was guided by the 28 corporate, education, and non-profit leaders who comprise School2Home's Leadership Group (see attached list), and by the dozens of experts and community leaders who worked on the program's Design Teams.

The approach of School2Home is distinct from other school technology immersion programs. While it builds on evidence and lessons learned from 1-to-1 laptop initiatives around the country and in California, it also advances the growing body of research underscoring the importance of a home computer and Internet access in improving educational outcomes. Home tools can create new learning environments, lengthen the school day, and facilitate individualized homework assignments. They also provide powerful tools for engaging low-income parents as learning partners.

Implementation Timetable

School2Home will begin working with schools in the fall of 2009. The program anticipates that up to 20 schools will participate in the first year, 50 in the second year, and 100 in the third year by which time School2Home will serve 51,000 students and parents. One hundred schools will be added in each subsequent year until all eligible schools have the opportunity to become School2Home participants.

More Information

For further information, contact Elaine Carpenter at ecarpenter@childrenspartnership.org

¹ Selcuk R. Sirin, "Socioeconomic Status and Academic Achievement: A Meta-Analytic Review of Research," *Review of Educational Research*, Fall 2005, Vol. 75, No. 3.

² U.S. Department of Education, *Academic Outcomes: Poverty and Student Mathematics Achievement*, January 2006.

³ Debra Salah-Din, Hilary Persky and Jessica Miller, *The Nation's Report Card: Writing 2007*, National Center for Education Statistics, April 2008.

⁴ Jennifer Laird, Emily Forrest Cataldi, Angelina KewalRamani and Chris Chapman, "Dropout and Completion Rates in the United States: 2006," National Center for Education Statistics, 3 September 2008 <<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008053.pdf>>.