Network Snapshot

Preparation Every Student

New Tech Network students persist in college at a rate of 82 percent compared to 74 percent nationally.\(^2\)

New Tech Network high school students had a graduation rate of 95 percent compared to the national average of 85 percent.\(^2\)

Partnering Across the Country

NTN partners with more than 200 schools in 28 states.

- Alumni Schools: 07
- New Tech Teams: 09
- Australian Schools: 09
- Member Schools: 164
- Affiliate Schools: 21
- Echo Affiliate Schools: 02
- NTN College Access Network Schools*: 11

Students: 85,000
Teachers: 5,000
NTN Graduates over the past seven years: 25,000+

\(^*\) NTN College Access Network schools do not all share the same Network membership affiliation and their different statuses are reflected in the total number of schools.
2020 is a year for the history books. Whether, in five or ten years, 2020 will be cited as the beginning of broad-scale education transformation in the United States remains to be seen. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt, and possibly change forever, how we think about teaching and learning.

We continue to adapt, alongside our partner schools, in the ways we support teachers and school leaders to help create meaningful distance-learning for students. Our nearly 20-year track record of innovative redesign efforts have resulted in schools that reflect what parents want for their children and what education leaders want for their teachers. This partnership model enables rapid change and lasting impact for teachers, students, and their communities.

The foundations of our school model made it relatively seamless for NTN partner schools to switch to home-based learning when schools closed their physical doors. By attending to culture, deeper learning outcomes, and a pervasive use of technology anchored to instructional pedagogy, New Tech Network teachers and students kept the learning going in this momentous and challenging year.

We know that schools are much more than grades and test scores - they nurture and nourish every aspect of our learners' development. 2020 has reinforced the critical role schools play in our towns and cities. It has also made the inequities glaringly clear and brought these inequities into sharp focus.

When every child - regardless of race, ethnicity, or income status - has access to a meaningful and inclusive learning environment focused on preparation for college and career, we help create a path to a bright future for students and their communities. At NTN, we believe all students are capable of great achievements and acknowledge that schools, by design, play a critical role in creating the conditions for student success.

2020 has only increased our appreciation and gratitude for the 200+ schools in our network. We stand ready and able to help more districts on their unique journeys to transform teaching and learning. We never arrive with all the answers, rather, we provide the blueprints and local communities customize our model to best meet the desires held by schools and the families they serve.

We’re up to the challenge of 2020 and beyond, and we welcome the opportunity to partner with you.

Lydia Dobyns
President & CEO
New Tech Network Overview

New Tech Network (NTN) pioneers whole school transformation through high-quality project-based learning (PBL). NTN partners with schools and districts to challenge the status quo. Our coaches work directly with teachers and administrators to improve outcomes for students.

The NTN school model and tailored coaching and support cultivate a culture of empowerment, discovery, and innovation. Most importantly, students graduate prepared for the demands of the future. Students need to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills; they must learn how to find and apply content knowledge—not just memorize it. When NTN partner schools experience shifts in culture and instruction as part of a comprehensive approach to education, those schools consistently experience positive outcomes for students—particularly students historically situated farthest from opportunity. Educators have access to thousands of resources and develop relationships with other education professionals.

The New Tech Learning Outcomes

The New Tech Learning Outcomes are five research-based outcomes designed to allow teachers to assess students based on a holistic picture of their skills while meeting state academic requirements. In collaboration with the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (SCALE), NTN developed a set of academic content rubrics aligned to college readiness standards. The NTN school model has at its core created a learning environment for students and teachers that reflects the realities of the working world. By utilizing this transparent weighted grading in every facet of learning. Taking steps to improve teaching and learning by adding or changing elective courses is easier to implement, however this incremental path does not lead to consistent improved outcomes for all students. Incorporating elective programs and doing projects vs. project-based learning is tempting, but ineffective since “doing projects” lives at the fringe of a school. NTN believes that students who use the New Tech Learning Outcomes in subjects like math, science, and language arts are significantly more engaged and more successful both academically and developmentally.

Through NTN’s learning management platform, Echo, teachers are able to more thoughtfully assess and collect data on student performance. Teachers provide feedback on both content knowledge and the skills essential for college and career readiness. New Tech Network students often highlight Agency, or the combination of academic mindsets and the ability to take ownership over one’s learning, as a key differentiator when compared to peers at non-NTN schools. Teachers and school leaders learn through valuable professional development, project resources, and personalized coaching to set their students up with the best possible chance to succeed.

The Network helps ensure educators are prepared to lead cutting-edge project-based learning as they transform their school—because students deserve schools that take advantage of every opportunity to improve learning.

From the Edge to Everywhere

NTN believes that the most effective way to develop workforce skills in students is to integrate the practice of each skill in every facet of learning. Taking steps to improve teaching and learning by adding or changing elective courses is easier to implement, however this incremental path does not lead to consistent improved outcomes for all students. Incorporating elective programs and doing projects vs. project-based learning is tempting, but ineffective since “doing projects” lives at the fringe of a school. NTN believes that students who use the NT Learning Outcomes in subjects like math, science, and language arts are significantly more engaged and more successful both academically and developmentally.

Reaching Higher

NTN students and other students in deeper learning schools gained the academic, interpersonal, and intrapersonal skills necessary for success in post-secondary life and beyond. Students who attended schools focused on deeper learning reported greater opportunities for deeper learning, greater competency in some deeper learning domains, had higher rates of graduating from high school, and were more likely to enroll in 4-year colleges than similar students who attended comparison schools.3
For New Tech Network, encouraging and facilitating this spirit of collaboration stems from schools sharing a vision of changing how students are educated so they are prepared for an ever-evolving world. The Network enables educators at all levels to collaborate, like teachers sharing project ideas or district leaders convening to discuss predictable challenges and best practices. When an active network of people work together, they produce better ideas and improve the quality of resources. Implementing comprehensive school change brings both predictable and unexpected challenges. Facing these challenges in isolation is often ineffective and frequently difficult to sustain. The NTN school model and the powerful network combine as formidable forces for change. To build a more effective local educational system, schools benefit most by working together.

A Diverse Network

NTN partner schools succeed, in part, because they work together - sharing ideas and results from each school with other communities.
The Four Pillars

New Tech Network’s decades of experience guiding schools through comprehensive transformation led to the Four Design Pillars. NTN developed these four categories to align the work of whole school transformation and to help school communities understand the overarching goals that impact the work through all phases of the school development process.

Outcomes That Matter:
Student outcomes that prepare all students for postsecondary success.
Every NTN partner school utilizes the five New Tech Network Learning Outcomes. The outcomes are: Collaboration, Knowledge and Thinking, Written Communication, and Oral Communication, and the development of student responsibility for their own learning, or Agency.

Teaching That Engages:
A focus on authentic complex thinking and problem-solving.
Project-based learning (PBL) is the primary pedagogical method that all NTN teachers use in their schools. It is the best way for students to demonstrate proficiency on school-wide learning outcomes. PBL requires contextual, creative, and shared learning. Students collaborate on meaningful projects that require critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration in order to answer challenging questions. By making learning relevant, students see a purpose for mastering state-required skills and concepts.

Culture That Empowers:
School-wide culture of inclusion and belonging for adults and students.
Each NTN partner school promotes a culture of trust, respect, and responsibility, encompassing student and professional culture. Students and teachers alike have ownership over the learning experience and their school environment.

Technology That Enables:
Use of technology platforms to support collaboration and student-centered learning.
Echo supports project-based learning and features an innovative gradebook that aligns to the deeper learning skills students will need in college and career. Digital tools, cultivated and aligned content, and a community of shared learning are integrated to create a powerful platform to support student and adult learning.

Demographic Breakdown*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic Category</th>
<th>Total NTN Students</th>
<th>Total Elementary School</th>
<th>Total Elementary School</th>
<th>Total High School</th>
<th>NTN School Range of</th>
<th>K-12 Students Across the U.S.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
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<td>1%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>0.26%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander/Hawaiian</td>
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<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0.63%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>36%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>41%</td>
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<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Multi-Racial, Other, PNTS</td>
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<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<td>0.24%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<td>0.89%</td>
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<td>11.100%</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<td>English Language Learners^</td>
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<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free And Reduced Lunch^</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>0.100%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Demographic categories are aligned with National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reporting to enable comparisons.

^Weighted average percent in Network schools rather than total percent of NTN students.

NTN Equity Beliefs

When every child - regardless of race, ethnicity, or income status - has access to a meaningful and inclusive learning environment focused on preparation for college and career, we help create a path to a bright future for students and their communities. At NTN, we believe all students are capable of great achievements and acknowledge that schools, by design, play a critical role in creating the conditions for student success.

We also acknowledge that disparities in student outcomes are primarily the result of unequal or inadequate educational opportunities, known as “opportunity gaps.” These opportunity gaps disproportionately impact under-represented students, most specifically, students of color and students living in poverty. We believe these gaps must be brought to the surface and addressed head-on. Left unchecked, systemic inequities will continue to negatively impact students and their communities.

As a nonprofit education organization committed to transforming teaching and learning so that all students can thrive, we are focused on deepening our knowledge, awareness, and capacity around all aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We aspire to become an anti-racist organization that contributes to the formation of a just and equitable society, and we recognize that work must start with ourselves and be ongoing and deliberate. While the work is complex, we are dedicated to our equity journey, including persevering through challenges and openly sharing our learning.
Power of the Network

New Tech Network schools thrive because at the foundation of each school and even each classroom, there’s a culture of trust, support, and collaboration. The same goes for the network of public schools that comprise NTN. This diverse, forward-thinking group of educators comes together virtually and at in-person events to provide support, additional resources, and guidance to their fellow New Tech Network members.

For NTN educators, this spirit stems from a shared vision of the education each of their students is entitled to earn. When an active network works together, they produce higher quality ideas and resources.

Integrated Learning
Findings from student focus groups and surveys in Texas, Michigan, and North Carolina indicate (with statistical significance) that students report engaging in project-based learning (PBL) and having technology integrated through the curriculum more than their non-New Tech peers.

Higher Engagement
NTN middle school students demonstrated significantly higher engagement (academic, social, and emotional), student agency, academic expectations, and school satisfaction than similar non-NTN students.

Enabling Access
NTN PBL implementation enabled access for traditionally underrepresented students to high quality STEM curriculum, instruction, and learning environments designed to build STEM social capital, dispositions, knowledge, and skills necessary for success in STEM study and careers.
Continuing Professional Development

The Improvement Journey

Teachers often rediscover their passion for education through New Tech Network’s Professional Learning opportunities. Professional Learning at NTN offers a personalized set of choices that allow teachers to learn at their own pace, focus on specific areas of improvement, and connect to a network of like-minded educators. Along with the convenience of a virtual model, educators have opportunities to attend convenings and national NTN events.

**NTN Coaching**

In the same way that NTN encourages and promotes students having power over their learning, coaching services allow teachers to do the same. NTN professional development was designed to help teachers refine and perfect their PBL skills in order to provide each student deeper learning experiences. Each teacher learns how to facilitate high quality PBL and has access to the tools they need to be successful.

**Mature School Services**

Continuation Services provide veteran schools and their districts an avenue to receive New Tech Network services consistent with the challenges that mature schools face. Through Community, NTN’s core service, NTN provides an environment for regularly structured dialogue between a school team and an NTN school development coach that is both time-efficient and cost-effective to sustain their innovation.

**Continuation Community**

New Tech Network Continuation Community provides direct support along with robust connections to Network schools.

Each school is supported by an NTN coach with 1:1 leadership coaching throughout the school year. This support can include individual school coaching, as well as connecting teachers and leaders from across the Network. Moreover, NTN Coaches continue to develop and deploy Network toolkits around emerging topics to further support community growth.

Most importantly, Community provides space for school leaders to connect, collaborate and learn together through virtual convenings, called Studio Sessions. These gatherings focus on topics including but not limited to: student recruitment and retention, shared problems of practice, advisory, developing feedback cycles, and sharing new learning in the Network.

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**Data-Driven Results**

Initial findings from the quality assurance review of event data suggest:

- **The NTN Approach**
  - The NTN approach to adult professional learning supports and sustains adult shifts over time.

- **Learning Objectives**
  - Learning objectives are met during the planning event and sustained through the implementation event.

- **Overall Experience**
  - Consistent positive overall experiences across learning objectives, facilitation, and resources.
Echo® houses all digital life for New Tech Network partner schools. The learning management platform hosts resources for student projects and assessment, robust teacher communities, professional development, parent involvement, NTN-provided resources, and more.

Echo's vast array of capabilities manifest in a user-friendly interface that parents, students, and teachers navigate daily – easily finding tools and resources customized for their needs. Echo is unique because it is the only learning management platform designed to assist and assess students based on multiple learning outcomes. Engaging teaching and robust feedback systems need a sophisticated but accessible platform to be effective.

Learning Collaboratively and Virtually:

**CONTENT:** Educators can tap into the expertise of NTN’s two decades of experience through the NTN Help and Learning Center. It contains hundreds of easily searchable resources and an “Ask a Coach” feature that puts them in touch with support whenever they need it.

**TOOLS:** The Echo learning management platform was specifically designed to address the unique needs of project-based learners, facilitators, and parents. The multi-dimensional gradebook, exclusively provided to NTN partner schools, is the only gradebook of its kind organized around the assessment and reporting of multiple learning outcomes.

**COMMUNITY:** The Echo community is vibrant and growing. Composed of all of the staff at NTN partner schools, teachers and school leaders exchange best practices, collaborate efficiently, share projects, and develop cross-school projects with ease.

**THE NTN HELP AND LEARNING CENTER** was created to support school leaders and teachers that have partnered with us to transform teaching and learning in their schools. There are three tiers of support provided through the NTN Help and Learning Center:

- **Free Limited Access:** Most of the articles included in the quick guides are open and available to the public. No sign-in is required.
- **Full Access:** Schools who have selected to access NTN’s content and community in their contract have access to hundreds of additional articles that are not included in the quick guides.
- **Full Access and Support:** Schools who desire additional coaching support can choose this option which allows teachers and school leaders to submit a request for coaching support through the NTN Help and Learning Center.
Steps to Whole School Transformation

Quick Guide: Partnering with NTN

01

We partner to create a plan of success for your school - be it redesign, new school implementation, or small workshops.

02

Our expert coaches work collaboratively in your school and at NTN events to bring the vision of what your school could be to life.

03

Your school moves into a small-sized contract, enabling access to Network resources.

Get Started Today

Schedule a Consultation

Need to learn more before making a commitment? Let’s schedule a call so you can learn more about what a partnership might look like.

Connect to an NTN School Leader

Want to talk to someone implementing our model first? We’re happy to connect you directly to one of our school leaders.

Schedule a Training

NTN consistently finds that districts who engage early with virtual or onsite NTN workshops can diagnose implementation challenges before they materialize while introducing NTN’s four pillars.

Visit a School*

Let New Tech Network host your team for a day of learning and engagement at an NTN school. It’s the best way to see the model in action!

Citations


2 School-level information on student enrollment, demographics, and graduation rates is sourced from the schools and publicly available sources such as the U.S. Department of Education databases. College outcomes are sourced from National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). Comparison data is sourced from NSC (https://ncresearchcenter.org tag/persistence/) and NCES (https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/).


8 Bergeron, L. (2019, November). Leveraging evaluation data to support change management across schools and districts. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Evaluation Associations, Minneapolis, MN.

9 NTN will adhere to CDC and state-specific health and safety guidelines when scheduling school visits.
Business leaders felt the high school experience was not helping students develop the collaboration and communication skills they needed, alongside their academic preparation. The start to a completely re-imagined school experience was based on a bold vision. Within a few years, student-centered focus, attention to culture, and pervasive use of project-based learning was the genesis of a new school model. NNTHS attracted national philanthropic support to create what is now New Tech Network, a non-profit organization based in Napa, California. What started as one district-operated high school is now a vibrant network of more than 200 elementary, middle, and high schools in diverse communities across the country and in Australia.

The origin story for New Tech Network goes back to 1996 in Napa, California where the first school was a collaboration between local entrepreneurs, teachers, and district leadership.