



## Kent School District



### Overview

**Country or Region:** United States

**Industry:** Education

### School Profile

Kent School District is based in Seattle, Washington, and includes 41 different schools.

**Number of Students:** 26,975 (as of 2012)

**Gender:** Mixed

**Age Range:** 5–21

**School Leader:** Dr. Edward Lee Vargas

**School Website:** [www.kent.k12.wa.us](http://www.kent.k12.wa.us)

Kent School District has been selected to participate in the Microsoft Innovative Schools World Tour for being a showcase example of the following Innovation Topics:

- 1:1 learning environments.** Students work on their own devices and can use technology at any time to access educational tools.
- Personalized learning environments.** Use of systematic continuous assessment to change the course of student learning and for remediation.
- Student-influenced learning environments.** Involving students in decisions around curriculum and culture.



## 1:1 learning environments

Implementing the Kent School District vision of “Successfully Preparing All Students for Their Futures,” the 1:1 initiative began in 2006 as a seventh-grade Technology Academy for 90 students who applied from across the district.

The Technology Academy added a grade level each year, expanding through high school, and the 1:1 initiative went district-wide in 2008 and now includes 11,500 students in seventh through eleventh grades at 15 secondary schools. Over the next few months, the initiative will expand to include all 13,000 students in all secondary grades.

Students use digital communication and collaboration tools to work with peers and complete assignments. All new resource adoptions focus on selecting digital resources, which include math, science, Spanish, health, digital citizenship, and language arts. In addition, the district subscribes to numerous online research resources.

A school-based comprehensive professional development program addresses pedagogy in a 1:1 environment and content area professional development optimizes instructional strategies for student laptop use.

### **Key Technology**

- *High-density Wi-Fi available in every building for anytime learning*
- *HP EliteBook laptops featuring the Intel Core i5 processor on a four-year refresh cycle with 8–10-hour battery life running the Windows 7 operating system and Microsoft Office 2010*
- *Surface RT devices*

## Personalized learning environments

Strategies for differentiating instruction and project-based learning are strongly supported by the district’s 1:1 program. In addition, a tiered intervention approach to meeting student learning needs blends digital and print resources. Digital tools assist with diagnostic and placement testing, in addition to monitoring benchmark assessment results to create focused, personalized learning plans for students.

Data aggregated in the district’s comprehensive data warehouse are retrieved through a number of dashboards for reviewing student performance and planning next steps for instruction. The data is compiled from vendor-provided online tools and from assessments created in-district. A large number of students complete the Washington State high stakes summative assessments online.

### **Key Technology**

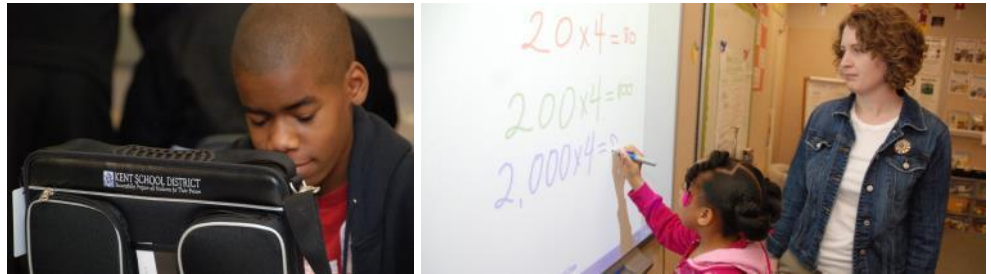
- *Microsoft SQL Server, on-premises data management*
- *Microsoft PerformancePoint Server*
- *Tableau dashboards*
- *Skyward student information system, and various curriculum resource vendors*

## Student-influenced learning environments

Students are given highly visible leadership roles on large-scale district projects and key support activities. These student opportunities include the following three program levels:

1. The Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council informally advises the superintendent by sharing a student perspective on educational programs.

Strategies for differentiating instruction and project-based learning are strongly supported by the district's 1:1 program.



- The IT Department's Student Technology Educational Partnerships (STEP) Leadership Team meets with district IT staff to plan and execute large-scale technology initiatives and provide feedback on hardware and software evaluations, implementation strategies, and the impact of technology from a student's perspective.
- InfinTly is a paid IT internship program that offers hands-on training for students who wish to pursue careers in the Information Technology field.

as measured by state assessments and district graduation rates.

## Driving leadership and a culture of innovation

Kent School District involves a range of stakeholders in leadership activities ranging from listening to more than 7,000 community voices in the Strategic Planning process to engaging with students in a Technology Advisory Council. The district seeks to place decision making at the appropriate level with reasoned input from those who are affected by the outcomes.

### Key Technology

*Kent School District encourages hands-on job skills in a production enterprise IT environment, including active participation in a live call center, data center, and network operations control center across multiple campuses.*

Kent School District also participates with other districts, agencies, and organizations in the Puget Sound region to provide leadership for the entire area in meeting the needs of students, families, and the community. These various strategies allow students and staff to be engaged in the current state of technology and provide opportunities built upon current practices.

## Improving student outcomes

The district's technology programs give students access to resources and technology-based experiences using workplace tools and real-life opportunities to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. In addition, the technology augments instruction by supporting concept learning with interactive, adaptive, and engaging resources and provides a platform for communication and collaboration with peers and teachers. These advantages have resulted in increased student achievement



## For More Information

For more information about Microsoft in Education, visit:

[www.microsoft.com/education/ww/solutions/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/education/ww/solutions/Pages/index.aspx)

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## Technology Infrastructure

