



# Orange Township Public Schools

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.  
Office of the Superintendent



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## **Orange Public Schools Joins Verizon Innovative Learning, Bringing Internet Access, Devices and Technology Coaches to Local Schools**

*In partnership with Digital Promise, Verizon Innovative Learning will welcome three Orange Public Schools for the 2023-24 school year*

**ORANGE, New Jersey** – Today, Orange Public Schools joins [Verizon Innovative Learning](#), Verizon’s award-winning education initiative which addresses barriers to digital inclusion. In partnership with Digital Promise, the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program equips every student and teacher at select middle and high schools across America with a device and up to a four-year data plan. In addition to free technology and access, schools receive extensive teacher training and support, along with the opportunity to engage in powerful teaching and learning that leverages technology in and out of the classroom.

Orange High School, Oakwood Avenue Community School, and Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation are among the 32 new schools joining the 10th cohort of Verizon Innovative Learning Schools, bringing the program to nearly 600 middle and high schools nationwide.

In addition to a free laptop with accompanying Verizon data plans for every student and teacher beginning in fall 2023, participating schools will be assigned a full-time coach to train teachers in effectively integrating technology into their lessons.

“Partnering with Verizon and Digital Promise for the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools initiative has been a dream come true for our scholars within three Orange Public School District

schools,” said Superintendent of Schools Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D. “With this partnership, students will have further abilities to connect to the outside world and create instructionally savvy projects as well as further their instructional acumen across content areas. The Orange Public School District staff will have the opportunity to expand their thinking related to integration of technology within their specific subject areas. Orange High School, Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation, as well as Oakwood Avenue Community School will all benefit from these new possibilities. The district stays steadfast in our commitment to provide innovative opportunities for each scholar that enters our doors. Thank you to our partners from Verizon and Digital Promise for assisting the Orange Public School District in the effort of moving our instructional initiatives to new heights.”

“So many students across the nation lack the access to technology and resources they need to be successful in today’s digital world,” said Mario Acosta-Velez, Verizon State and Government Affairs. “On behalf of Verizon, we are excited to help enable students in Orange Public Schools to develop the skills, knowledge, and capabilities for a more promising future.”

Verizon Innovative Learning is driving academic improvements.\* In fact, 78 percent of teachers reported that Verizon Innovative Learning enhanced their ability to differentiate instruction and 77 percent said the program enhanced student engagement.\*

These efforts to support digital inclusion are part of Citizen Verizon, Verizon’s responsible business plan to move the world forward for all. Learn more about the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools program and how to apply at [verizon.digitalpromise.org](https://www.verizon.com/digitalpromise/education).

\*\*Source: Westat (2022): Verizon Innovative Learning Teacher Survey June 2022

## **About Verizon Innovative Learning**

Verizon Innovative Learning, Verizon’s award-winning education initiative, is celebrating over a decade of commitment to addressing barriers to digital inclusion for students and teachers. Since 2012, the program has committed \$1 billion in market value to support digital equity, reaching over 3 million students. Verizon Innovative Learning provides free technology, internet access and emerging technology-infused learning programs to students in under-resourced communities—enabling students to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to build an innovative workforce of the future. In 2021, Verizon launched Verizon Innovative Learning HQ, a next-gen online education portal that provides free access to immersive extended reality (XR) educational

experiences to all educators, including K–12 teachers, nationwide. A key program under Citizen Verizon, the company’s responsible business plan for economic, environmental and social advancement, Verizon Innovative Learning is helping to drive the company’s goal to provide 10 million youths with digital skills training by 2030. Learn more at [citizenverizon.com](http://citizenverizon.com).