

# 1TWO1 Initiative Prepares Richland School District Two Students and Teachers for the Future



## About Richland School District Two

- Located in Columbia, South Carolina
- 18 elementary schools, 7 middle schools, 5 high schools, 4 magnet centers and 2 alternative centers
- Google Apps for Education user since 2011
- Google Chromebooks for Education user since October 2011 and 1:1 program launch in September 2012 (grades 3–12)

## Goals

- Create a personalized, authentic and collaborative learning environment
- Help students develop the skills necessary to succeed in the 21st Century

## Approach

- Implemented 1Two1 computing initiative with Google Chromebooks to 19,000 students throughout the district
- Organized a Google Summit to provide teachers with extensive training and prepare them for the 1TWO1 roll-out



## Institution

Home to more than 26,000 students, Richland School District Two in Columbia, South Carolina includes 18 elementary schools, seven middle schools, five high schools, four magnet centers and two alternative schools. The district lives by its vision to create a personalized, authentic and collaborative learning environment that prepares students for success through meaningful, challenging and engaging learning experiences.

## Challenge

More than ten years ago, Richland Two’s technology department started investigating ways to bring personal devices into the classroom. The district wanted to increase student engagement and equip them with technology skills to succeed in the 21st century. Administrators knew that access to technology would enhance creativity, critical thinking, communication and problem solving skills for students and teachers. The 1TWO1 computing initiative, which established a roadmap to provide each student with their own personal device, was born.

As the technology department started exploring potential devices, cost, battery life, boot-up time, and having a physical keyboard were all major factors. Additionally, devices needed to be easy to implement and manage. Since they were already using Google Apps for Education across the district, school officials were drawn to cloud-based, always accessible devices that didn’t require building a huge infrastructure.

*“Chromebooks in conjunction with Google Apps for Education will make a real difference in how our teachers teach and how our students learn. It’s a much more collaborative learning environment, for both students and teachers.”*

*—Donna Teuber, Technology Integration Coordinator for the Richland School District Two*

Richland Two officials invited teachers, principals, technology specialists and curriculum supervisors to be part of the decision process during a two-day conference, knowing that the success of the 1TWO1 initiative would hinge on teachers understanding the technology and how it could help them.

With a focus on helping teachers understand and learn how to best use the new technology, Richland Two provided teachers with professional development programs. The district adopted the Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK) framework and Substitute, Augmentation, Modification, Redefinition (SAMR) model to help teachers integrate technology into the curriculum. School officials also organized a “Google Apps for Education Summit,” which included presentations by Google Certified Trainers and a

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## Chromebooks for Education

- Chromebook devices
- Web-based management console
- 24/7 support from Google
- Limited hardware warranty

Google's Chromebook laptops provide fast, affordable, and easy-to-manage computing that allows students to learn anytime, anywhere by accessing the vast resources of the web.

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For more information, visit:  
[www.chromebooks.com/edu](http://www.chromebooks.com/edu)

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keynote address by Jaime Casap, Sr. Education Evangelist for the Google in Education Team. The event provided the opportunity for teachers to meet peers from other schools, and share lesson plans, technology strategies and ideas. Ninety percent of teachers said they benefitted from the event and were ready to transform learning in their classrooms, offering students a more collaborative and creative experience to prepare them for the future.

### Benefits

Since introducing Chromebooks, Richland Two has seen a significant shift to a more collaborative learning and teaching environment. Rather than handing out assignments on sheets of paper, teachers are now using Google Apps to share assignments with students through Google Drive or on a Google Site, enabling anytime, anywhere access to the information. Teachers also love that they can give feedback and guidance throughout projects instead of waiting until students turn in the assignment. With educational Web apps like SlideRocket, WeVideo and MindMapper (available in the Google Chrome Web Store) at their disposal, student engagement has never been better. In fact, through a survey, over 90% of Richland Two teachers agreed or strongly agreed that having technology in the classroom will enhance the way they teach, what they teach and the way their students learn.

Students also benefit from the ability to work together even if they're not physically in the same room. For example, drama students are able to work on play scripts during class then continue to collaborate on the script from home through Google Docs and Google Chat. "Google has given our students a platform to publish work and communicate inside and outside of the classroom," says Teuber. "We've never seen more creative collaboration among our students."

### Results

The 1TWO1 implementation has not only changed the figurative learning environment, it has also literally changed the physical setup of the classroom. Since implementing Chromebooks, teachers are moving away from the traditional classroom where they stand in front of individual desks, and starting to foster a more team-oriented environment with desks clumped together in groups or extra tables for team work.

In addition to the classroom benefits, Richland Two's IT department has nothing but positive things to say about the 1TWO1 initiative. Because Chromebooks require minimal management and IT maintenance, the IT team doesn't have to spend time on things other than learning and teaching. "Chromebooks allow us to focus on our students, not the devices," says Teuber. "With the Web-based system, we also don't have to spend money on maintaining the technology as the Chrome OS software automatically updates by itself, for free. This is extremely important given our limited budgets."

