

## **KIPP Overview**

KIPP schools are part of the free, public school system and enrollment is open to all students. There are 200 KIPP schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia educating nearly 80,000 students on their path to and through college, careers, and life.

### **KIPP origins**

KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) began in 1994 when Mike Feinberg and Dave Levin launched a fifth-grade program with 47 fifth-graders within a public elementary school in Houston, TX. The following year, two new schools began. Mike remained in Houston to lead KIPP Academy Middle School, and Dave returned home to New York City to establish KIPP Academy Middle School in the South Bronx. By 1999, these original KIPP public charter schools were among the highest performing schools in their respective communities.

### **KIPP Foundation**

In 2000, Doris and Donald Fisher, founders of the Gap, committed \$15 million in philanthropy to partner with Feinberg and Levin to replicate the success of the original KIPP schools. The non-profit KIPP Foundation was originally established to recruit and train outstanding school leaders to open and run new KIPP schools. Today, the Foundation also develops tools to support excellent teaching and facilitates the exchange of ideas across the KIPP network.

### **KIPP network**

The first new KIPP middle schools opened as charter schools in 2002. In 2004, KIPP opened its first elementary and high schools, which paved the way for KIPP to become a full PreK-12 school system. In 2005, Richard Barth became the CEO of the KIPP Foundation and helped to develop the regional growth model for KIPP's expansion. All KIPP schools are locally-run, non-profit organizations and are governed by a board of directors.

Our families choose KIPP schools because they are looking for a personalized, safe learning environment where teachers are focused on helping every child succeed. The students KIPP educates are approximately 40 percent Latino and 60 percent African American. Almost 90 percent of our students qualify for free or reduced price lunch, 10 percent receive special education services, and 17 percent are English Language Learners.

### **Our results**

In a commitment to transparency, KIPP Foundation publishes the test scores, results, and demographic for all KIPP schools on an annual basis on its [website](#).

Mathematica, an independent research group, has conducted a multi-year study of KIPP schools. The [2015 Mathematica report](#) shows that KIPP elementary, middle, and high schools have impacts on student achievement that are positive and statistically significant. Mathematica also found that KIPP middle school students have entering fifth grade test scores that are equal to those of neighboring district schools.

### **KIPP Through College...and beyond**

The KIPP Through College program supports KIPP alumni all the way to and through college graduation. KIPP Through College counselors help students navigate from the application process to sorting out financial aid, to staying connected as they navigate classes, housing, and more. KIPP has also forged partnerships with over 80 colleges and universities who are committed to helping more low-income students of color persevere all the way to graduation.

As of 2015, 45 percent of KIPP alumni have completed a four-year degree, and another 6 percent have completed two-year degrees. By comparison, 33 percent of Americans aged 25-29 have earned a college degree. (according to Census data), and the average for students from low-income communities is 9 percent. Nationally, KIPP students complete college at a rate that is above the national average for all students and more than four times the rate than that of students from similar economic backgrounds.

### **More Information**

- <http://kipp.org/results>
- <http://kipp.org/schools>
- <http://kipp.org/results/mathematica-study>
- <http://kipp.org/results/college-completion-report>