



Welcome!

We hope you had a restful holiday and are ready for the new year! In this edition of our 1Million Project Newsletter, we're excited to share the progress we've made connecting students in Year 1, the valuable insights we've learned and the inspiring stories we've heard from students and school officials from across the country.

As most of you know, our mission is to help 1 million high school students who do not have reliable Internet access at home reach their full potential by giving them devices and free high-speed online connectivity. However enjoyable and fulfilling, the effort required to achieve this mission is significant, complicated and humbling.

Since launching the 1Million Project in August 2017, team members, along with more than 250 Sprint employee volunteers, have been busy supporting 120 school districts across 31 states to help schools activate and distribute their free devices. So far, we've distributed 95,000 connected devices to students who have been extremely grateful. "This tablet is a blessing," "I'll be able to do my homework much easier now," and "This will help me improve my grades" are just a few of the kinds of responses we hear daily.

Why we are passionate about this challenge

Not every student in America has the equal opportunity to grow and thrive. Some students fall behind simply because they don't have a reliable home Internet connection. This isn't fair and it isn't right; which is why we're excited to help level the playing field for high school students across the country.



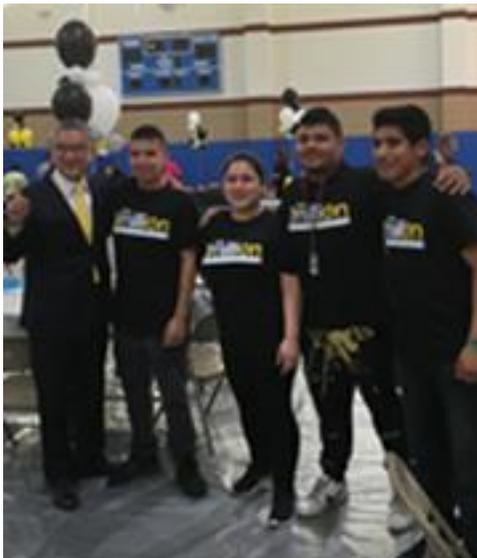
Many students are facing the harsh reality of the homework gap. This video gives you a glimpse of the unequal playing field.

Year 1 Stories

When we held our activation event in Miami in October, the reactions we received were touching. One story in particular caught our attention. Sadre, a Miami-Dade high school student, was caught trespassing on school grounds one Saturday morning. His reasoning: he was there to use the school's Wi-Fi since he didn't have Internet access at home.



"I will not let anything stop me from doing my homework; I spent many nights doing homework up to 3 a.m. to get it done. I'd be tired in school but it's worth the grade and the sense of accomplishment I feel. I have plans to go to business school at Dartmouth or Princeton. Having access to the Internet after school ends is the only way I can do my homework and keep my grades up so that I can apply to these great colleges. It also helps me be at home more instead of going to the library. I can also help my other siblings with their homework, too. I'm okay with the cards I've been dealt in life but I'd like to improve and I see education as the best way for me to get there." – Sadre



In addition to hearing stories like Sadre's, school officials from around the country have also offered their reflections on the program's impact, including this one from a California district.

"The West Contra Costa Unified School District is honored to be a part of the 1Million Project. Prior to participating, the district purchased a tablet for each student, but students who did not have access to the internet were left at a disadvantage. Accommodating these students by creating separate lessons was cumbersome and time-

consuming for teachers. For our one-to-one project to be successful, this (home Internet access) piece of the puzzle had to be solved. The 1Million Project was instrumental in addressing this challenge. We've even heard that parents are for the first time looking up issues concerning health care, applying for jobs online and assisting their high school students with college applications. This program is a dream come true for us and a real game-changer for our community.” – Mary Phillips, Chief Technology Officer, West Contra Costa Unified School District in Richmond, California

Welcome Houston!

We're excited to have the Houston Independent School District (HISD) join the 1Million Project family this January! With a Year 1 allocation of 14,000 devices, HISD will become our second largest 1MP district. Immediately following Hurricane Harvey's devastation, Sprint and 1MP reached out to HISD to see if and how we could each help. HISD's quick response was

one of optimism and gratitude, even as they worked through the countless challenges of how to continue to serve their students. HISD's recovery is impressive and we're honored to help ensure that, despite the devastation, their high school students are still well-positioned to achieve their full potential.

Insights

To say we've learned a lot in the past few months is an understatement. But from our perspective, this is a good thing. We genuinely see ourselves as a learning organization, and few have attempted as audacious a goal as trying to deploy 190,000 devices to more than 1,400 high schools in their first year. Among the many salient lessons we've learned during the past several months:

- 1.** Starting the annual district selection and implementation process as early as possible is better for districts, students and 1MP. As a result, we hope to select all Year 2 districts by February, begin training shortly thereafter, and encourage districts to identify students in late spring.
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2. Not requiring signed parental consent forms expedites device activations. We know many districts still require these to be signed by parents and we both understand and respect this decision. At the same time, we want to provide home Internet connectivity to as many high schoolers as possible, as quickly as possible. Thus, eliminating this hurdle is preferred.

3. Persistence wins the race. Big activation events are fun and extremely helpful, but so, too, are smaller, daily activation efforts. Whether through “lunch-and-learns” or other strategies, districts that create responsive systems for activating devices daily achieve their goals fastest.

4. Compelling device usage is the prize, not just activating them. Given many districts’ challenges to activate all of their devices, it makes sense that achieving this goal becomes the focus. However, the real prize is having all recipient students use their devices to complete their homework at rates that parallel (or exceed!) their non-1MP peers.

Preparing for Year 2

Although we’re continuing to activate Year 1 devices in many of our 120 districts across the country, we’ve already launched the early stages of Year 2. Current 1MP districts are engaging in thoughtful planning with our staff regarding their Year 2 device needs, while new districts have been filling our application queue via our website. Our team has also secured impactful feedback from our District

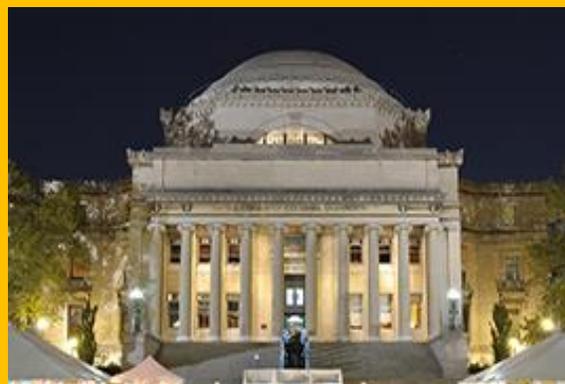
Advisory Council members, while working across our program to improve each element in anticipation of Year 2. Finally, much like last year, we expect demand to exceed supply, so we strongly encourage new prospective districts to apply as soon as possible. We anticipate sending program acceptance letters to new districts in February.

Key Initiatives

Although the primary goal of 1MP is to help ensure high school students across America have reliable home Internet access, we're also focused on cultivating compelling relationships that help catapult students' learning and life trajectories. Two among these stand out.



The first is with [CollegeBoard](#). Commonly known for administering the SAT, the focus of our joint efforts will be to encourage and support students in using their 1MP devices to prep for the SAT. Students will be encouraged to spend time prepping on [Khan Academy's](#) free, world-class online platform, where research shows SAT scores improve by an average of 115 points after 20 hours of practice. In exchange for their time spent practicing, students will receive additional free data from Sprint. Our plan is to pilot this with three school districts (Chicago, Oklahoma City and San Antonio) in the spring of 2018, with the hope of expanding to a much larger subset of our 1MP districts in Year 2.



A second noteworthy initiative is with [Columbia University](#), one of our nation's most respected higher education institutions. On our behalf, Columbia will research 1MP's longitudinal impacts on key indicators of student behaviors and academic achievements. We're bullish on this research because we believe in our hypothesis: that 1MP will make a measurable impact on students' lives. If we're right, our learnings will make a meaningful contribution to our nation's public policy conversations about the most compelling ways to close one of our nation's opportunity gaps. Our plan is to have approximately 10 of our 1MP districts participate in this research, the conclusions of which will have the potential to impact all 50 million of America's public school children.

There is still space to participate in both of these initiatives. If, as a 1MP school district, you'd like to consider being a part of both efforts, please email our [Executive Director](#).

Our New Website

Creating a website that captures the spirit of the important work you're doing – while conveying the essential details people look for – is never easy. Nevertheless, we took our best stab here at www.1millionproject.org. Take a look around, check out the videos of enthusiastic 1MP students, and send us feedback. We appreciate the collaboration with each of you, and we hope you see our shared values and efforts reflected in our 1MP website.

If you have any questions for our team, please email us at 1Million@sprint.com.
We'd love to hear from you!