

THE MISSION OF KIPP IS TO CREATE A RESPECTED, INFLUENTIAL, AND NATIONWIDE FAMILY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT ARE SUCCESSFUL IN HELPING UNDERSERVED STUDENTS DEVELOP THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND CHARACTER NEEDED TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE AND THE COMPETITIVE WORLD BEYOND.

KIPP SCHOOLS

KIPP, the Knowledge Is Power Program, began in 1994 when teachers Dave Levin and Mike Feinberg launched a fifth grade public school program in inner-city Houston, TX after completing their commitment to Teach For America. While only half of the students passed their fourth grade tests before enrolling in KIPP, that year more than 90% percent passed the Texas fifth grade end-of-year exams in English and mathematics. In 1995, Feinberg's KIPP Academy Houston became one of Houston's first public charter schools, and Levin returned home to New York to establish KIPP Academy in the South Bronx. Since then, KIPP has grown into a national network of public schools in 15 states and the District of Columbia that offer all children a high-quality public education and give them the opportunity to pursue a college education. More than 85% of KIPP alumni who were high school seniors in 2004 earned acceptances to college.

KIPP Schools are tuition-free, open-enrollment public schools where underserved students develop the knowledge, skills, and character needed to succeed in top quality high schools, colleges, and the competitive world beyond. Students are accepted regardless of prior academic record, conduct, or socioeconomic background. Over 75% of KIPP students are eligible for the federally subsidized meal program, and 95% of KIPP students are African American or Latino/Hispanic.

KIPP Schools share a core set of operating principles known as the Five Pillars:

HIGH EXPECTATIONS. KIPP Schools have clearly defined and measurable high expectations for academic achievement and conduct that make no excuses based on the background of students. Students, parents, teachers, and staff create and reinforce a culture of achievement and support through a range of formal and informal rewards and consequences for academic performance and behavior.

CHOICE & COMMITMENT. Students, their parents, and the faculty of each KIPP School choose to participate in the program. No one is assigned or forced to attend these schools. Everyone must make and uphold a commitment to the school and to each other to put in the time and effort required to achieve success.

MORE TIME. KIPP Schools know that there are no shortcuts when it comes to success in academics and life. With an extended school day, week, and year, students have more time in the classroom to acquire the academic knowledge and skills that will prepare them for competitive high schools and colleges, as well as more opportunities to engage in diverse extracurricular experiences.

POWER TO LEAD. The principals of KIPP Schools are effective academic and organizational leaders who understand that great schools require great school leaders. They have control over their school budget and personnel. They are free to swiftly move dollars or make staffing changes, allowing them maximum effectiveness in helping students learn.

FOCUS ON RESULTS. KIPP Schools relentlessly focus on high student performance on standardized tests and other objective measures. Just as there are no shortcuts, there are no excuses. Students are expected to achieve a level of academic performance that will enable them to succeed at the nation's best high schools and colleges.

KIPP Schools start with a fifth grade and add one grade each year until they reach full capacity at approximately 320 fifth through eighth grade students. This gradual growth helps develop an enduring culture of high expectations among students, parents, and staff. KIPP students are typically in school from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, for four hours on Saturdays, and for a month in the summer. Students complete on average over two hours of homework each night, and teachers are available for help on their cell phones. Students, parents, and teachers sign a Commitment to Excellence form (see other side) that confirms their commitment to the school and to the goal of college. Rigorous college-preparatory instruction is balanced with extracurricular activities and high-quality experiential field lessons.

KIPP FOUNDATION

In 2000, Doris and Donald Fisher, co-founders of Gap Inc., formed a unique partnership with Feinberg and Levin to replicate KIPP's success nationwide. Based on the belief that great schools are led by great leaders, the non-profit KIPP Foundation recruits, trains, and supports outstanding teachers in opening college-preparatory public schools in high-need communities. KIPP helps secure facilities and operating contracts while training new school leaders through the yearlong KIPP School Leadership Program which includes coursework at the University of California at Berkeley's Haas School of Business, Residencies at KIPP Schools, and support from KIPP staff.

Principals trained by KIPP have replicated the initial success of the original KIPP Academies. According to a 2002 independent report by New American Schools, the first three new KIPP Schools each recorded statistically significant gains in student achievement. Preliminary results from the 2003-2004 school year indicate that KIPP Schools continue to make impressive gains; KIPP students who took the national SAT-10 exam in the fall of 2003 and again in the spring of 2004 averaged scores increases of 35% in mathematics, 24% in reading and 26% in language.



To learn more about KIPP and to join the movement, please visit www.kipp.org.

BELOW IS A SAMPLE COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE FORM USED IN KIPP SCHOOLS.

TEACHERS' COMMITMENT

We fully commit to KIPP in the following ways:

- We will arrive at KIPP every day by 7:15 A.M. (Monday-Friday).
- We will remain at KIPP until 5:00 P.M. (Monday-Thursday) and 4:00 P.M. on Friday.
- We will come to KIPP on appropriate Saturdays at 9:15 A.M. and remain until 1:05 P.M.
- We will teach at KIPP during the summer.
- We will always teach in the best way we know how and we will do whatever it takes for our students to learn.
- We will always make ourselves available to students and parents, and address any concerns they might have.
- We will always protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals in the classroom.

Failure to adhere to these commitments can lead to our removal from KIPP.

Please print name(s) here.

PARENTS'/GUARDIANS' COMMITMENT

We fully commit to KIPP in the following ways:

- We will make sure our child arrives at KIPP every day by 7:25 A.M. (Monday-Friday) or boards a KIPP bus at the scheduled time.
- We will make arrangements so our child can remain at KIPP until 5:00 P.M. (Monday - Thursday) and 4:00 P.M. on Friday.
- We will make arrangements for our child to come to KIPP on appropriate Saturdays at 9:15 A.M. and remain until 1:05 P.M.
- We will ensure that our child attends KIPP summer school.
- We will always help our child in the best way we know how and we will do whatever it takes for him/her to learn. This also means that we will check our child's homework every night, let him/her call the teacher if there is a problem with the homework, and try to read with him/her every night.
- We will always make ourselves available to our children and the school, and address any concerns they might have. This also means that if our child is going to miss school, we will notify the teacher as soon as possible, and we will read carefully all the papers that the school sends home to us.
- We will allow our child to go on KIPP field trips.
- We will make sure our child follows the KIPP dress code.
- We understand that our child must follow the KIPP rules so as to protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals in the classroom. We, not the school, are responsible for the behavior and actions of our child.

Failure to adhere to these commitments can cause my child to lose various KIPP privileges and can lead to my child returning to his/her home school.

Please print name(s) here.

STUDENT'S COMMITMENT

I fully commit to KIPP in the following ways:

- I will arrive at KIPP every day by 7:25 A.M. (Monday-Friday) or board a KIPP bus at the correct time.
- I will remain at KIPP until 5:00 P.M. (Monday - Thursday) and 4:00 P.M. on Friday.
- I will come to KIPP on appropriate Saturdays at 9:15 A.M. and remain until 1:05 P.M.
- I will attend KIPP during summer school.
- I will always work, think, and behave in the best way I know how, and I will do whatever it takes for me and my fellow students to learn. This also means that I will complete all my homework every night, I will call my teachers if I have a problem with the homework or a problem with coming to school, and I will raise my hand and ask questions in class if I do not understand something.
- I will always make myself available to parents and teachers, and address any concerns they might have. If I make a mistake, this means I will tell the truth to my teachers and accept responsibility for my actions.
- I will always behave so as to protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals in the classroom. This also means that I will always listen to all my KIPP teammates and give everyone my respect.
- I will follow the KIPP dress code.
- I am responsible for my own behavior, and I will follow the teachers' directions.

Failure to adhere to these commitments can cause me to lose various KIPP privileges and can lead to returning to my home school.

Please print name here.