

SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUMMIT DENALI

RE-ENVISIONING WHAT SCHOOL LOOKS LIKE

“With Summit Denali, we have the opportunity to design an entire school and educational experience around the question, ‘How does learning best occur?’ By putting student learning at the center and using technology to allow teachers to do what they do best, we will be able to offer a truly optimized learning environment for every individual student.”

JOE BIELECKI, SUMMIT DENALI

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ New School
- ✓ Flex Blended Model
- ✓ Project-Based and Experiential Learning
- ✓ Competency-Based Learning
- ✓ College Readiness & Success

AT A GLANCE:

Start Date: Fall 2013

Grades Served: 6–12

Location: Bay Area, CA

Operator: Summit Public Schools

Operator Type: Charter

Setting: Urban

Students at Start: 135

Students at Capacity: 700

MODEL TOOLBOX:

Learning Management System:

Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) Tool, developed by Summit in-house and integrated with Activate Instruction, Illuminate Education, Curriculet, Google Drive

Student Information System:

Illuminate Education

Gradebook: Summit's PLP Tool, Illuminate Education

Digital Content Providers: Activate Instruction, Curriculet, Google Drive

When Summit Public Schools examined its portfolio of California schools looking for areas to improve, the end goal was clear—college and career readiness—but school developers struggled to find room for change within their existing model.

The model was already rigorous, with all students participating in a college-prep curriculum, including Advanced Placement courses. The schools were already leveraging digital content in the classroom to help provide differentiated instruction and remediation. But the very design of the traditional school—four walls around a classroom and a teacher driving student learning—was making it impossible to truly think outside the box.

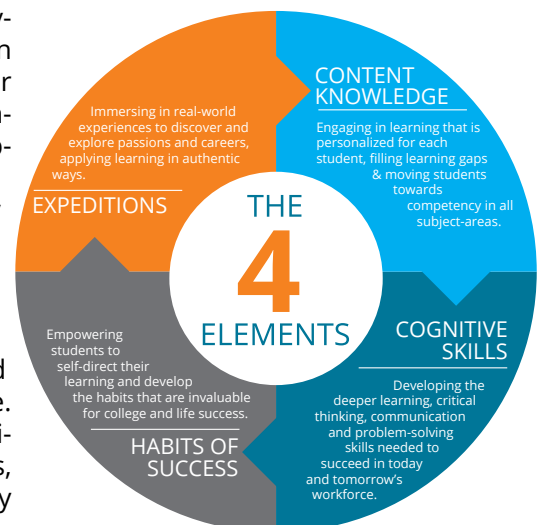
What the school needed was to flip the school model, placing students at the center and allowing them to self-direct and drive their own learning. In the fall of 2013, Summit's Next Generation School Model debuted with the opening of Summit Denali. Summit's Next Generation school model is designed to ensure that every student is prepared for success in college and career by focusing on four elements of college readiness – Content Knowledge, Cognitive Skills, Habits of Success, and Expeditions.

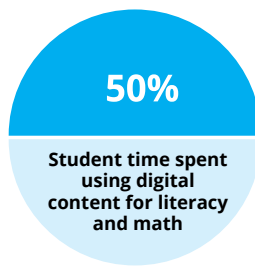
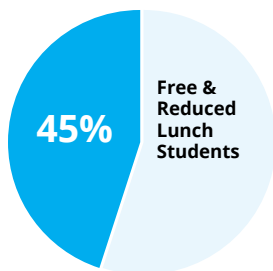
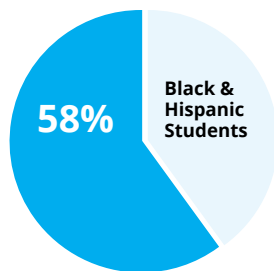
The Summit Denali school day is designed around these four elements.

- **Personalized Learning Time:** Students work towards their individual learning goals to develop and demonstrate content knowledge. Each week, students use the Self-directed Learning Cycle to set goals, make a plan, learn, show what they

know and reflect. Students learn at their own pace, and in the ways they learn best, by utilizing a combination of playlists curated by Summit teachers, peer-to-peer coaching and 1:1 tutoring. Playlists and content assessments are housed in Activate Instruction.

- **Project Time:** Students spend the majority of their school day in Project Time, where they are engaged in authentic, project-based learning experiences facilitated by Summit teachers and housed in a platform called ShowEvidence. Project Time is driven by high-quality, interdisciplinary, deeper learning activities that call on students to think critically, develop important cognitive skills, work collaboratively, and apply the content they are learning in Personalized Learning Time.
- **Mentor Time:** All Summit students have a mentor who serves as a college counselor, coach, family liaison, and advocate, ensuring stu-





BLENDED SUBJECTS:
All Subjects

BY THE NUMBERS:

Year 1 public revenue per pupil:

\$9,460

Year 1 expenses per pupil:

\$14,464

Year 4 revenue per pupil:

\$7,965

Year 4 expenses per pupil:

\$7,884

Years to sustainability: 4

dents excel inside and outside of the classroom every day. Students lead weekly meetings with their mentor, where they review their Personalized Learning Plan, track their academic progress and receive coaching on their self-directed learning skills.

- **Summit Reads:** Arguably one of the most important skills needed for college and career success, students have dedicated time each day to improve and strengthen their reading. Using an e-reading platform called Gobstopper, students develop their literacy skills and practice perseverance and other important Habits of Success.
- **Summit Solves:** Mathematical problem-solving skills are also crucial for success in our modern world. Every day, Summit students spend time in Summit Solves, practicing their numeracy skills and mathematical problem-solving at

their own level and their own pace.

- **Community Time:** Students meet together each week in small, collaborative groups to discuss issues important to them. These Socratic dialogues underpin the Summit community's values of respect, responsibility, courage, compassion, and integrity, while exploring topics such as vulnerability, motivation, and self-advocacy.

Each day, students log into their Personalized Learning Plan (PLP), a student dashboard designed in-house by Summit. In the PLP, students set learning and personal growth goals, track their progress, receive immediate feedback, and are able to access all learning resources at any time.

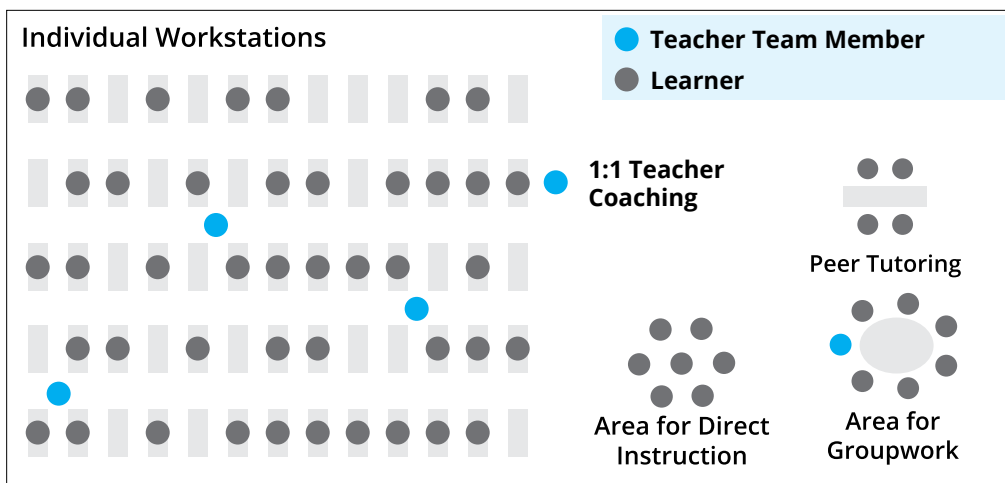
The PLP is designed to be a dynamic tool where students, families, and teachers alike can offer support and coaching.

Summit Denali also includes a hall-

mark of Summit's model: an eight-week Expeditions program (held during intervals throughout the school year) that gives students the opportunity to engage in a course, internship, or project that explores areas of interest, passion, and potential careers. During Expeditions, Summit students work full-time on courses ranging from digital arts and theater to robotics and community-service projects. At Denali, Expeditions experiences will integrate with the development of the behaviors and dispositions they need to succeed in college, career, and life.

Summit Denali is one of nine Summit schools in California and Washington State using this Next Generation school model. The charter network plans to grow to serve more communities. In all cases, lessons learned from individual models help refine and influence the entire cohort moving forward.

LEARNING SPACES



Summit Denali's learning space is designed to be flexible and fluid, encouraging a natural flow of ideas between teachers and students and meeting all personalized pathways and learning styles. The arrangement of chairs, desks, and even walls shifts multiple times throughout the school day based on the learning experience, whether it is a project, interdisciplinary activity, or personalized learning time. In this way, the learning is never constrained by space.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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