Celebrating Our Roots » Growing Our Future

KIPP ENC
College Prep Public Schools
OUR MISSION

The mission of KIPP ENC is to empower all of our students with the skills, knowledge and character necessary to succeed at the colleges of their choice, strengthen their communities and fight for social justice.

KIPP ENC BY THE NUMBERS

Kindergarten-2nd Grades

288 STUDENTS

5th-12th Grades

1,000 STUDENTS
Dear Friends of the Pride,

After completing high school in three years, I attended UNC Chapel Hill and three years later, I earned a BA in Economics with a minor in Philosophy and Politics. For the past two years, I have been enrolled at East Carolina University pursuing my MBA while working full time in securities and trust services at BB&T Bank. I am by far the youngest person at work and in my graduate program, and people ask me all the time how that is possible. My reply is always, “320 Pleasant Hill Road.” This address, home of KIPP Gaston College Preparatory, has played a tremendous role in my life. It is because of the people in this building and all of our supporters across the country that the trajectory of my life has forever been altered.

Throughout college, I volunteered in high schools working with struggling students who, unfortunately, had not overcome their academic, behavioral or social struggles. Why is this pertinent, you may ask? These gaps are the same ones that could have prevented my friends and me from reaching our potential, but KIPP was that much needed bridge. Without KIPP many of us would not have entered and graduated from college. Many of us would not have been exposed to injustices in our community and throughout the world, and subsequently been inspired and empowered to fight against them. The work that happens at 320 Pleasant Hill Road has had a ripple effect not only on the students enrolled on our campus, but has also positively affected our surrounding communities. Without KIPP, many neighborhoods would not have seen decreased crime and teenage pregnancy rates and increased graduation rates. I am thankful to all of the supporters who have helped our campus achieve amazing results, and I know that the path I have taken and the achievements I have accomplished would have been impossible without your help.

A common saying is, “I can never repay you,” but I believe that I can work to do just that. I will say thank you by becoming the successful businessman, future father, neighbor, philanthropist, activist, and mentor that KIPP’s staff worked so diligently to create. I am incredibly humbled thinking of all of the individuals who have supported our campus. Without your help, thousands of students in my community and communities across Eastern North Carolina would not have the amazing opportunities that I was provided. To everyone who has shared your time, treasure or talents, thank you for helping to be our bridge to success, a better life and a more just world.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Derrick Bennett

Derrick Bennett
Founding Member
Pride of 2010
“KIPP, a revolutionary school system.”

~Oprah Winfrey
About KIPP

**KIPP, the Knowledge Is Power Program,** is a national network of free, open-enrollment, college-preparatory public charter schools with a track record of preparing students in underserved communities for success in college and in life.

**Who We Are**
There are currently more than 140 KIPP schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia serving over 50,000 students. More than 86 percent of our students are from low-income families and eligible for the federal free or reduced-price meals program, and 95 percent are African American or Latino. Nationally, more than 93 percent of KIPP middle school students have graduated high school, and more than 83 percent of KIPP alumni have gone on to college. Students are enrolled regardless of prior academic record, conduct or socioeconomic background.

**What We Believe**
Since our founding, it has been our core belief that all students, regardless of their zip code or demographics, will learn and achieve. We are committed to serving the students who need us most and refuse to accept anything less than an excellent college-preparatory education for students from low-income communities.

**What We Do**
Essential to creating a great system of schools is having our eyes on the same goal: college graduation. At KIPP, teachers, leaders, students, and parents are all united around this goal. By providing outstanding educators, more time in school learning, and a strong culture of achievement, KIPP is helping all students build the skills needed to make it not only to, but through, college.

**Why It Matters**
The future of our country depends upon our collective commitment to providing all children with access to a great education. In particular, there is a heightened level of urgency when we consider the challenges faced by the one in five children living in poverty in America. We need to work together to change the current reality that a child in a more affluent community is seven times more likely to graduate from college than a child growing up in poverty.

**How We’re Organized**
A majority of schools in our network operate within regions—a local system of schools. Schools in regions are supported by a regional office, governed by a common local board, and led by a local executive director. Schools clustered in KIPP regions can share instructional practices and materials, thereby accelerating innovation in the classroom. In a KIPP region, the KIPP school leader can focus on students, teachers, and families while a regional office provides services across multiple schools, such as operations and alumni services. At KIPP, we believe that a large degree of school leader autonomy can be preserved in a system of schools that makes selective investments in standardization (such as frameworks for defining a healthy school and leadership development), which enables the system to operate effectively and efficiently.
“The KIPP staff brings out the very best in my children and never accepts anything less. As a parent they have welcomed me into the Pride – always valuing my thoughts, asking for my opinions and serving as additional members of our extended family. I love KIPP all day, every day.”

~Cymie Rawlins, Parent
Our Schools

Fourteen years ago, our Pride—a brave and committed group of teachers, fifth graders and their families—helped transform 27 acres of soybeans and peanuts into a campus dedicated to ensuring that every student would be prepared to attend the college of his/her choice and positively impact the world. Today, those fifth graders have begun graduating from colleges across the country, and now eight of these alums are back in our schools teaching and leading. Our growing region is now home to more than 1,200 students and 150 staff members who continue to nurture those roots of change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Founded/Opened</th>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KIPP Gaston Middle School</td>
<td>FOUNDED 2001</td>
<td>Serving grades 5th - 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIPP Gaston Pride High School</td>
<td>FOUNDED 2005</td>
<td>Serving grades 9th - 12th</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIPP Gaston Primary School</td>
<td>FOUNDED 2012</td>
<td>Serving grades Kindergarten - 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIPP Halifax Middle School</td>
<td>FOUNDED 2014</td>
<td>Serving grade 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIPP Durham Middle School</td>
<td>OPENING FALL 2015</td>
<td>Serving grade 5</td>
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I came to the peanut field because of the culture and community of the GCP campus. The staff members are hard working, believe in our mission, and are willing to do whatever it takes to see our students succeed. This is exactly the type of work environment in which I thrive. In addition to constant critical feedback and support, the KIPP School Leadership Program and the Featured Teacher network provide me with tremendous opportunities for rigorous professional development. As I think about the revolutionary work happening in education, I know my contribution strikes a balance between being incredibly challenging and incredibly fulfilling. We are committed to becoming the best in the world at what we do—empowering our students with the skills, habits and character necessary to succeed at the colleges of their choice and join in the fight for social justice.
KIPP Gaston Middle School

We believe that our students will make the world a better place. We believe that the strength of our school comes from our Pride, a group of strong lions hungry for knowledge, college and power, but also our individual and collective desire to strive for excellence in all that we do. Working together as a family, we know that the success of the individual and the success of the community are tied together in what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. referred to as the “the fabric of inescapable mutuality.”

Because we work hard, we are proud of our growth and our accomplishments. We believe in bravery because we confront ignorance, racism, abuse, and corruption. We believe in urgency because our kids are in a race where the front-runners have a giant head start. We don’t believe that time is money; we believe time is a precious opportunity to change lives and cannot be wasted any more than water can be spilled in a desert. We believe in self-awareness and understand the necessity of modeling what we expect of our students because as James Baldwin writes, “Children have never listened to adults, but they have never failed to imitate them.” We believe in passion because this is what ignites our fire and sustains our drive. Our passions push us to explore, to engage in diverse and exciting activities, ask questions, seek solutions to problems and set and reach personal goals - not only in school, but in life.
Our five values (leadership, excellence, integrity, humility and community) are essential to helping the school achieve its mission. They are woven into the various systems, expectations, and rituals at the high school. These values help create a safe learning and working environment for all members of the Pride.

Our high school students are prepared not only to succeed at the colleges of their choice, but more importantly are empowered to use their knowledge, skills and character to strengthen their communities and fight against injustices. While our students enter our building to learn, they exit prepared to serve and lead.

KIPP Gaston Primary School

KIPP Gaston Primary School is a family that nurtures and supports children as they grow through guided investigations of our world to begin their journeys to colleges, careers, and lives of joy and purpose.

Two statements encapsulate our values and vision into primary student-friendly mottos: *Cubs can. Cubs care.* These statements represent the values we prioritize in our development of moral character based on life experience and the work of Martin Seligman and Christopher Peterson.

“Cubs can” encompasses the character traits of optimism, persistence, integrity and self-control. A cub can when he attends to his needs independently and with self-control. He can tie his own shoes to keep himself safe; he can clean up a mess when he spills something; he can talk out a problem with a classmate; he can sit in the peace chair to calm down if he gets upset. “Cubs care” actualizes love, zest, gratitude, and respect. Our guiding motto encourages our students to care about school and the people there, which they display by approaching tasks with interest and curiosity. A cub cares when she speaks kindly to others, asks probing questions in class, and shares her materials and helps others.
KIPP Halifax College Prep

In expanding to Halifax County, our Pride will show what is possible in NC’s lowest performing school district and prove that a student’s demography should not determine a student’s destiny.

We believe that through a strong school culture where high expectations for academics and character are modeled and embedded in what we do, every single one of our students will have the opportunity to create social change and pursue a life of opportunity.

KIPP Durham College Prep

In 2015, KIPP ENC will expand to Durham and prove that students in both urban and rural communities can achieve at the highest levels. By working with community organizations and leaders, KIPP Durham’s staff, students and families will create a high-quality, college prep option for students in East Durham and continue to strengthen the community.

With your support, in 10 Years...

We will consist of 10 schools that serve almost 5,000 students, resulting in a student population that exceeds over half of North Carolina’s school districts. 216 of our alums will graduate college each year empowered to strengthen their communities and fight for social change across our state and nation.
Just the Beginning

Since 2009, 100% of KIPP Gaston’s seniors have earned acceptance letters to four year universities and colleges from across the nation including UNC Chapel Hill, Duke, NC State, Morehouse, Princeton, Davidson, Georgetown, Howard, UPenn, Spelman, Harvard, and Wake Forest. Since 2009, each senior class has averaged more than $1M in merit based scholarships – including the Robertson Scholarship, Gates Millennium Scholarship, Dell Scholars, Leonore Annenberg Scholarship, and the Golden Leaf Scholarship.

FROM PAST TO PRESENT

2001
KIPP Gaston opens its doors to a founding 5th grade; less than 50% of these students were performing at or above grade level in reading and math.

2002
KIPP Gaston is named one of NC’s most improved schools and a NC School of Excellence.

2004
97% of KIPP Gaston students are performing at or above grade level according to North Carolina state tests.

2006
KIPP Gaston receives award for Title One Distinguished School for North Carolina.
For those students whose journey began in 2001 on a former peanut farm, the dream of a high-quality education—the opportunity to go beyond others’ expectations and achieve at extraordinary levels—is now a reality. Led by a tireless staff of top-notch educators, KIPP Gaston’s students have redefined the notion of what is possible in public education. Now thirteen years later, eight members of the founding class have returned to teach the next generation of the Pride – which includes their brothers, sisters, cousins and neighbors.

Fueled by their success, KIPP ENC will continue to work with communities throughout the state, serving as a model of a high-performing public school system that prepares students for success in college and in life. The extraordinary accomplishments of KIPP Gaston’s students represent just the beginning of a journey that will, one day, ensure that every student in the state of North Carolina will have access to a high-quality, college preparatory public education.
Our Guiding Philosophy

At KIPP ENC, we believe that our students deserve a relevant curriculum, rigorous expectations and supportive relationships with caring adults.

We strive to empower our students with life lessons by offering enrichment activities and exposure to people and places beyond their classroom walls. By remaining focused on closing the achievement gap and developing our students’ passions, our children will be empowered to use their unique experiences and diverse perspectives to make our communities stronger. We believe that a high-quality public education for all students is the most powerful weapon we have to fight for a more just world.

Exposure to College

Each year, KIPP ENC students from different grades visit dozens of colleges and universities to experience college life. Recent highlights include:

- **5th Grade:** Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **6th Grade:** University of North Carolina at Greensboro, North Carolina A&T State University, Southern College Tour
- **7th Grade:** Wake Forest University, North Carolina Central University and New York City College Tour
- **8th Grade:** Fayetteville State Trip, University of Virginia and Washington, D.C. College Tour
- **9th Grade:** Campbell University and North Carolina State
- **10th Grade:** East Carolina University and Elon University
- **Juniors and Seniors** visit the colleges of their choice throughout the year.

Focus On Enrichment

From hiking the Appalachian Trail and seeing “The Lion King” on Broadway, to playing saxophone in the band, KIPP ENC students are exposed to rich and varied experiences that open up new worlds. Just a few of the activities and adventures available to students include:

- Band
- Drama
- Choir
- Visual Arts
- Athletics
- Summer Camps
- Trips to Museums and Art Galleries
- Study Abroad
- Internships
- Service Trips
- Community Service
- Volunteer Opportunities
For some children that maybe thought they didn’t have a chance, all of a sudden, there are doors opening everywhere.

-Reginald Mayo
Parent
Why It Works

Top-Notch Teachers

Every day, a tireless group of educators in KIPP ENC schools is leading the charge to ensure that students’ zip codes do not dictate the educational opportunities available to them. Our teachers share a passion for learning that ignites the motivation of our students and fosters a culture of high achievement.

KIPP ENC teachers come from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Whether a first-year teacher or a 20-year classroom veteran, each shares a passion for learning and teaching all students to the highest of expectations.

While KIPP ENC teachers are recruited from all over the country, almost half of our teaching staff was raised in the communities in which we work.

The achievements of KIPP ENC’s students are the result of effective classroom instruction; teachers are imparting more than text book knowledge. They are inspiring students to want to learn and to address the issues and challenges in the world beyond their classroom walls. KIPP ENC teachers nurture students’ desires to live with the kind of integrity that comes from a respect for themselves and for others and the desire to positively impact the world.

The Five Pillars

The extraordinary accomplishments of the students at KIPP ENC are made possible through a unique approach to learning that includes:

1. High Expectations
   Everyone operates with the belief that all students, regardless of race or socioeconomic background, not only can, but will achieve at superior levels when taught in a high-quality manner. Staff and students hold themselves and each other to rigorous college preparatory standards.

2. Commitment and Choice
   As free public schools, KIPP ENC is open to all students and families regardless of prior academic or behavioral performance. The staff works hard to create a supportive environment where everyone is encouraged to work harder in order to ensure the success of all students.

3. Focus on Results
   KIPP ENC students will be prepared to do well on both state and national standardized tests, yet these measures are only one form of tangible results. The success of KIPP ENC is ultimately measured by alumni demonstrating the skills and habits necessary to graduate from the colleges of their choice and strengthen their communities.

4. More Time
   Because of a school day that begins at 8am and ends at 5pm, KIPP ENC students spend 67% more time in school than traditional students. With an extended school day and year, students benefit from more classroom time and extracurricular activities. Teachers are also available by cell phone in the evening, as well as during breakfast, lunch, after school and on weekends to provide additional help.

5. Power to Lead
   Great schools require great leaders. KIPP ENC’s principals have control over school personnel, curriculum decisions and instruction practices, with the goal of providing an optimal learning environment for all students. In addition, staff and students are empowered to lead in the classroom, in sports, in extracurricular activities and throughout their community.
Over a Decade of Student Achievement at KIPP Gaston

KIPP’s Percentage Points Above Local and State Averages - Reading

KIPP’s Percentage Points Above Local and State Averages - Math

North Carolina English End of Course Test

North Carolina Biology End of Course Test
Average Magnitude of Fall-to-Spring Growth - MAP 2012-13

ACT Scores - Spring 2013 Scores of our Junior Class*

College Graduations and Persistence of KIPP Gaston Students*

*Includes all members of our junior class.

*Includes all 8th and 12th grade completers at KIPP Gaston.
Beyond Test Scores

We believe that our students’ success will not only be measured by test scores or by banners hanging on a wall, but by their ability to create change and pursue a life of endless opportunities.

KIPP Gaston Seniors

Yearly, KIPP Gaston seniors receive over 300 letters of acceptance from more than 50 different universities. In addition, these students on average earn more than $1M in college scholarships. All KIPP Gaston seniors have met the following expectations:

- Completed at least one AP Course
- Completed at least 60 hours of community service
- Participated in a summer program
- Earned acceptance to a four year college or university

Alumni: Their Choices

Appalachian State University
Barton College
Campbell University
Clark Atlanta University
Chowan University
Delaware State University
Duke University
East Carolina State University
Elizabeth City State University
Elon University
Emory-Riddle Aeronautical University
Fayetteville State University
The George Washington University
Greensboro College
Halifax Community College
Hampton University
Howard University
Ithaca College
Lees-McRae College
Liberty University
Meredith College
Morehouse College
Nash Community College
NC Wesleyan College
Norfolk State University
NC A&T State University
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina State University
The Ohio State University
Peace College
Princeton University
Shaw University
St. Augustine’s College
The US Air Force Academy
UNC Chapel Hill
UNC Charlotte
UNC Greensboro
UNC Pembroke
University of New York at Albany
University of Pennsylvania
Johnson C. Smith University
Living Arts College
Louisburg College
Saint John’s University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem State University
University of Miami
University of New Mexico
Western Carolina University

Half of our founding class has already earned a college degree, thereby quadrupling the college graduation rates of students from low-income communities who graduate from college within 6 years.
KIPP ENC
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Kevin Jones, Attorney - The Law Office of Kevin Jones

Janice Smith, CEO and Co-Founder of Mission 100%

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