

## BLENDING PERSONALIZED LEARNING: STRATEGY OVERVIEW

In 2012, the Rogers Family Foundation's Strategic Plan established a blended learning pilot initiative, stating that *"the outdated school model is not preparing individual students to meet the rigorous demands of the knowledge economy or helping them create a better life for themselves. Blended Learning can change how we educate students, emphasizing mastery-based learning, as opposed to traditional one-size-fits-all instruction. Blended Learning is about rigorous, high-quality implementation, with all kids accessing technology. Our Blended Learning initiative is focused on making Oakland a leading district in this space."*

We have been pleased by the progress demonstrated by these early pioneering schools and teachers. Today, Oakland's public schools are now largely technology-enabled, with pockets of truly high-quality blended instruction at the classroom level. Our eight blended learning pilot schools lit a spark; its lessons on infrastructure and support scaling across the city. This initial effort gained nationwide attention, resulting in the Foundation's capacity to bring more resources and expertise to expand our work beyond individual teachers and classrooms to create a cohort of innovation that will lead to high-quality blended personalized learning schools that reach all students. These schools will fully reimagine the role of student and teacher to create breakthrough achievement, joy, and sustainability. As part of our strategy update, our focus on blended personalized learning will manifest itself largely through local proof points as part of the [Next Generation Learning Challenge in Oakland](#) grant program (NGLC in Oakland). With the goal of creating out-of-this-world schools that collectively serve 3,000-5,000 students with high-quality, innovative, and personalized learning by 2020, the Foundation will implement the following strategies:

- 1. Fund the launch, implementation, and evaluation of blended personalized models.** Beginning in the first quarter of 2016, and in partnership with other funders, the Foundation will award NGLC in Oakland launch grants for next generation schools that provide local, blended personalized proof points and contribute to the Foundation's goal of creating high-quality schools for Oakland families. The majority of resources awarded will target students and school communities furthest from opportunity.
- 2. Build the pipeline for NextGen schools.** There is no shortage of opportunities for school operators, partner funders and third-party consultative design organizations to engage in new model design. Coordination and communication enables matching a diverse set of schools and leaders to appropriate and formalized services and pathways, including our own on going "Discovery" events, such as visits to innovative schools. A diversity of support options and pathways increases any single school's ability to find what they need next in their model development.
- 3. Support classroom- and school-based pilots of educational technology.** Foundation staff members guide schools and teachers at the earliest stages of the NextGen pipeline to use their existing resources in innovative ways, and will also partner with select community organizations as needed.
- 4.** We know from our previous experience that greater impact occurs when grantees receive additional supports from the Foundation. As such, we will strive to **add value to the work by selectively providing "beyond the grant" staff support** to Oakland schools, operators, and ecosystem organizations to scale lessons learned and foster cross-organizational partnerships with the potential for breakthrough impact.

## BLENDING PERSONALIZED LEARNING: LOGIC MODEL

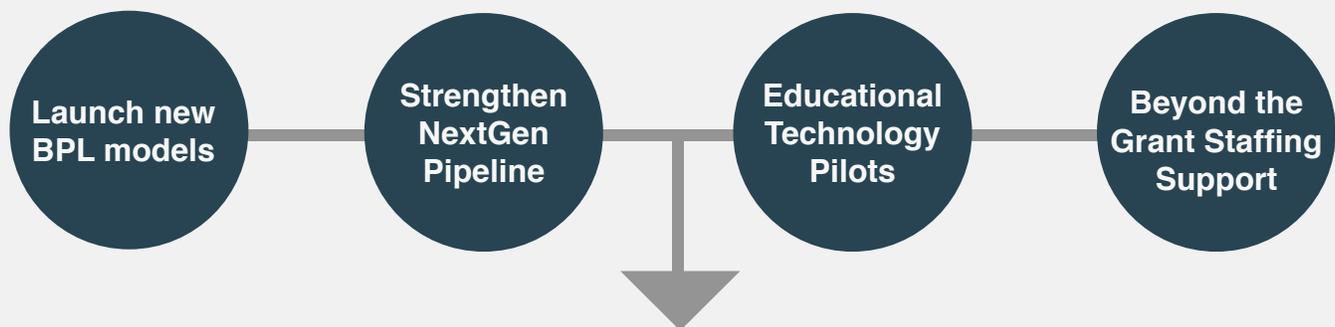
**GOAL: 3,000-5,000 high-quality, innovative, personalized, student-centered seats by 2020.**

**ISSUE:** Oakland's public schools are tech-enabled. Transformative action is needed to create high-quality, blended personalized schools that reimagine the role of student and teacher to create breakthrough achievement, joy, and sustainability.

**FOCUS OF CHANGE:** • Launching successful school models to serve as local examples • Creating capacity for rapid prototyping of new ideas • Building teacher leadership to support innovation

**ASSUMPTIONS:** • Technology infrastructure alone will not create dramatic achievement outcomes for students • New designs are needed to leverage new technology for new outcomes • Technology does not replace teachers; teachers using technology replace those who do not • Teachers are powerful communicators to scale ideas • Existing designs are starting places for further innovation and adaptation

### STRATEGIES



### NEAR-TERM OUTPUTS & OUTCOMES

- Launch the first school models in September 2016, with one or two additional schools launched each fall thereafter, ultimately serving at least 3,000 students by 2020
- Imported models of personalization grow to over 2,000 students served by 2020
- A portfolio of high-quality leadership development pathways support all Oakland Unified School District elementary schools to transition from technology-enabled to high-quality blended learning by 2020
- Identified partners and collaborators on-board 250 blended personalized teachers for Oakland by 2020
- Community partner capacity and resources bridge the digital divide by providing a free home computer to any family in Oakland who needs one by 2017

### IMPACT | ANTICIPATED CHANGES

- At minimum, Oakland has an additional 3,000 high-quality blended personalized learning seats by 2020, as measured by annual student learning growth, reductions in achievement gaps, and alignment with pillars of personalization.