



School-To-School Connections

Connect To Learn partners schools around the world for online cultural exchange and shared learning experiences, bringing teachers and students together with their peers globally through the use of mobile broadband technology.

Program Overview

School-To-School Connections is a flagship program of Connect To Learn, pioneered by the Earth Institute. The program connects classrooms in impoverished rural and urban communities in Africa with classrooms in the U.S. and other countries to foster cross-cultural learning and cultivate global awareness, understanding, and collaboration. Currently participating international schools are situated in the U.S. and across sub-Saharan Africa within the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) and Millennium Cities Initiative (MCI) sites, renowned for their innovative, integrated model for enabling rural communities to lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

Background & Purpose

Inspired by the vision of Dr. Sonia Ehrlich Sachs, Health Coordinator of the MVP, School-To-School Connections was launched in 2008 when the Whitby School in Greenwich, Connecticut became the first American school to connect with a school in a Millennium Village, Omwicwamba Primary School in Uganda. This successful partnership prompted interest in expanding throughout Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. Our goal is that the School-To-School Connections program will help create a sense of commonality among young people and a sense of shared responsibility for tackling the global challenges we all face, including that of extreme poverty. In 2011, with School-To-School Connections in mind, Connect To Learn commissioned a team from Columbia University Teachers College to create a set of curricular resources based on the Millennium Development Goals in order to support shared lesson planning between teachers at our partnered schools and collaborative learning among their students. Video Skype calls and emails help facilitate their work together and build relationships among participants.

EXAMPLE MVP SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Friends Seminary
New York, NY



Kisyoro Secondary
Ruhira, Uganda (MVP)

New Canaan
Country School
New Canaan, CT



Ilolangulu Secondary
Mbola, Tanzania (MVP)



Students in Connecticut (left/middle) and Tanzania (at right) read to each other from their classrooms half a world apart.

Connect To Learn is a global education initiative that advocates for a 21st century secondary education for all young people everywhere. The initiative enables access to secondary education by funding scholarships for adolescents, especially girls, who would otherwise be unable to continue academic schooling beyond primary school. In the secondary schools these scholarship recipients attend, Connect To Learn makes ICT investments in schools, including broadband connectivity to enable access to quality educational resources for not only these students, but also their teachers and hundreds of classmates. School-To-School Connections engages them all, and helps build 21st century skills.

“This project is incredibly meaningful to my students and to me. Parents have expressed their gratitude for our efforts to prepare their children for global citizenship.”

—Kristen Ball
Teacher,
New Canaan, CT

For more information on our programs please visit www.ConnectToLearn.org or contact Executive Director Kara Nichols at +1.212-870-2791.