



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **Norwalk Public Schools Students to Receive Internet-Connected Devices from Verizon Innovative Learning at Rollout Event**

*In partnership with Digital Promise, Verizon Innovative Learning welcomes five Norwalk Public Schools in for the 2024-2025 school year*

**WHAT:** On Tuesday, Aug. 20, Norwalk Public Schools will celebrate its expanded partnership with [Verizon Innovative Learning](#)—Verizon’s award-winning education initiative which addresses barriers to digital inclusion and helps drive digital equity within education for some of the most vulnerable populations across the country—with a kickoff event at Roton Middle School in which students will receive their own devices. In partnership with Digital Promise, the [Verizon Innovative Learning Schools](#) program works side-by-side with schools and districts to get internet-connected devices into the hands of students and to enhance how teachers use technology in the classroom. Being part of the program will keep students connected, helping to facilitate learning wherever it’s taking place.

In addition to reliable access for every student and teacher, Verizon Innovative Learning Schools also equips each school with a technology coach and provides robust professional development support for teachers to effectively integrate technology into the classroom. Teachers in the program have reported that the initiative allows for more individualized instruction, helps them explore new ways of teaching, and elevates student engagement.

Roton Middle School, Brien McMahon High School, Center for Global Studies, Norwalk High School, and P-TECH Norwalk are among 34 schools joining Verizon Innovative Learning Schools for the 2024-25 school year, bringing the program’s impact to 626 schools nationwide. A total of 4,199 devices with data plans will be provided to these Norwalk Public Schools as part of the program. The market value of Verizon Innovative Learning’s investment is on average over \$2.3 million per school. These five schools join three other Norwalk Public Schools that joined the program three years ago.

"Verizon is proud to welcome Norwalk Public Schools to the Verizon Innovative Learning program," said David Lamendola, Verizon Director of Government Affairs for Connecticut and New York. "Through this transformative program, we are working to increase digital inclusion and enable students to acquire the skills they need to thrive in a digital world. In particular, STEM is key in education and the workforce and VILS will be a great resource for the students of Norwalk's public school system."

Tuesday’s kickoff event at Roton Middle School will feature local students receiving their own devices, as well as:

- Firsthand remarks from administrators and program leaders on why hands-on learning experiences using technology—particularly in middle and high school—are so important to academic achievement and lifelong success.
- Demonstrations by teachers and students on how this technology will be used in classrooms this year.
- A schoolwide family celebration with food trucks, a cotton candy station, a STEM station, and more.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Aug. 20 | 12:30-3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Roton Middle School | 201 Highland Ave., Norwalk, CT 06853

**WHO:**

- Dr. Alexandra Estrella | Superintendent of Norwalk Public Schools
- Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling
- Connecticut Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff
- Roton Middle School students

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**About Verizon Innovative Learning**

Verizon Innovative Learning, Verizon’s award-winning education initiative, is celebrating over a decade of commitment to addressing barriers to digital inclusion for students and teachers. Since 2012, the program has committed \$1 billion in market value to support digital equity, reaching over 7 million students. Verizon Innovative Learning provides free technology, internet access and emerging technology-infused learning programs to students in under-resourced communities—enabling students to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to build an innovative workforce of the future. In 2021, Verizon launched Verizon Innovative Learning HQ, a next-gen online education portal that provides free access to immersive extended reality (XR) educational experiences to all educators, including K–12 teachers, nationwide. A key program under Citizen Verizon, the company’s responsible business plan for economic, environmental and social advancement, Verizon Innovative Learning is helping to drive the company’s commitment to provide 10 million youths with digital skills training by 2030. Learn more at [citizenverizon.com](https://citizenverizon.com).