



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, September 23, 2014**

**Avonworth School District Accepted into Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools**  
Avonworth selected to join national network of school districts committed to demonstrating, evaluating, and scaling innovation

Washington, D.C. | September 23, 2014 – Today Digital Promise, a national, independent nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to accelerate innovation in education, announced **Avonworth School District** as one of 11 new members accepted into the League of Innovative Schools, a national coalition of school district superintendents committed to innovation.

Avonworth was selected from a competitive and national pool of applicants based on its leadership, evidence of results, innovative vision for learning, and commitment to collaboration.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Thomas Ralston, said that the staff and students were excited to be part of the league. Thanks to a variety of efforts by the staff, administration, parents and community members, the school district has been able to make the changes necessary to propel the district forward.

"This recognition belongs to the entire Avonworth School District community," said Ralston. "We've made a commitment to provide every child in our district with the kinds of learning opportunities that will help them thrive in the 21st century."

In joining the League, members commit to share lessons learned, participate in national and regional forums, and partner with research institutions, technology developers, and one another to deliver better results for students. A vibrant ecosystem working together on shared priorities, the League aims to foster greater innovation in learning and leadership practices.

"Our League of Innovative Schools serves to spotlight the promising practices for realizing the power of technology and innovation," said Karen Cator, president and chief executive officer of Digital Promise. "We are thrilled to welcome these inspiring school leaders into our network as we join together to improve the opportunity to learn for the nation's K-12 students."

Avonworth is one of 11 new districts selected to join the League of Innovative Schools. The League now includes 57 districts and education agencies that collectively represent more than 3 million students across 27 states.

“Each new district brings an innovative vision and unique perspective that will add to the already rich network in the League,” said Sara Schapiro, director of the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools. “The wealth of experience and expertise these educators bring to the League will help us move the needle on important challenges facing education, ultimately improving outcomes for the most important stakeholders – students.”

New members will be officially welcomed Oct. 5-7, at the National League of Innovative Schools meeting in Washington, D.C. League superintendents will have the opportunity to visit schools within District of Columbia Public Schools and identify shared challenges to pursue with other League members. Superintendents will cap off the event with a meeting at the White House on Oct. 7 with administration officials.

The 11 members of the League of Innovative Schools fall 2014 cohort are:

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools – Thornton, CO
- Avonworth School District – Pittsburgh, PA
- Bristol Township School District – Levittown, PA
- Coachella Valley Unified School District – Thermal, CA
- Kettle Moraine School District – Wales, WI
- Loudoun County Public Schools – Ashburn, VA
- Mineola Union Free School District – Mineola, NY
- Owsley County School District – Booneville, KY
- Spartanburg School District 7 – Spartanburg, SC
- Vista Unified School District – Vista, CA
- Wake County Public School System – Cary, NC

For more information on the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools visit:  
<http://www.digitalpromise.org/league>.

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#### **About Avonworth School District**

The Avonworth School District educates more than 1,500 students in grades K-12. The District is 8 miles northwest of downtown Pittsburgh and encompasses a land area of 10.54 square miles in the Boroughs of Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, and Emsworth, along with Ohio and Kilbuck Townships. The region is a diverse socio-economic area with a population under 10,000.

#### **About Digital Promise**

Digital Promise is a nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to spur innovation in education in order to improve the opportunity to learn for all Americans. Through its work with educators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and leading thinkers, Digital Promise supports a comprehensive agenda to benefit lifelong learning and provide Americans with the knowledge and skills needed to compete in the global economy.