



# Mentoring and More Set Students on the Path to College

Blackstone Valley Prep High School  
Cumberland, RI

## AT A GLANCE

**Blackstone Valley Prep High School (BVPHS)** is a public charter school in suburban Rhode Island. The school serves 330 students in grades 9-12:

- 63% Free or Reduced Lunch
- 12% English Learners
- 14% have an Individualized Education Plan

## SCHOOL GOALS

BVPHS opened in 2014 with a primary goal: to prepare students for college and beyond. When the BVPHS leadership team heard about Summit Learning and visited Summit Prep in Redwood City, CA, they realized Summit Learning could help them achieve this goal. After learning that 100% of Summit Public School (SPS) seniors are four-year college ready and that SPS graduates complete college at twice the national average, the team decided to apply to the Summit Learning Program.

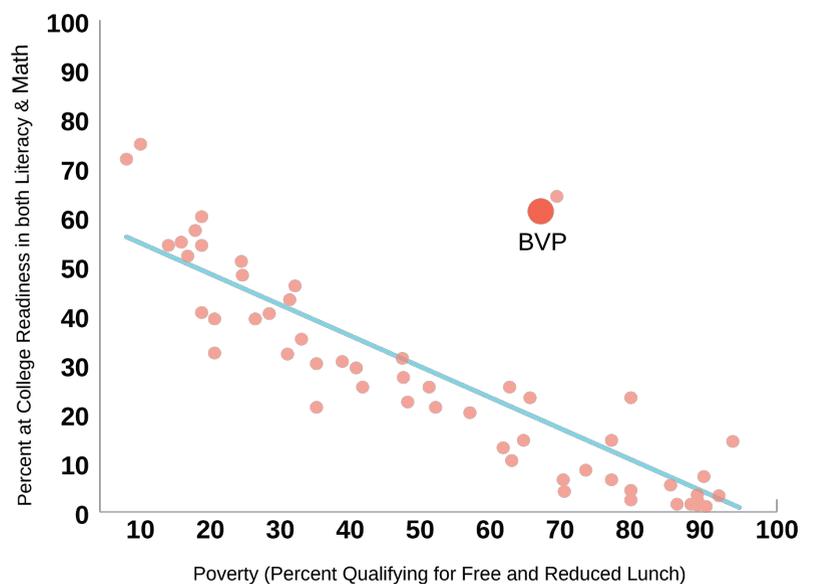
In 2015-16, BVPHS was one of the first schools in the nation to implement Summit Learning. That school year marked the school's second year of operation and the first year the Summit Learning Program was offered. Upon implementation, BVPHS offered Summit Learning to all 200 of their students, spanning 9th and 10th grades.

## IMPACT

From day one, BVPHS used the Summit Learning approach to help their high school students get on the path to college success. Three years into the Program, the school is seeing that its students are ready for college and beyond. **In the 2016-17 school year, BVPHS 11th graders, now in their second year of Summit Learning, were 91% more likely than Rhode Island juniors of similar demographics to be college and career ready in both literacy and math on the SAT.** Additionally, on average BVPHS 11th graders scored 108 points above the state average on the SAT.

## Students Are More College Ready Than Peers at Schools With Similar Demographics

SAT vs. College Readiness Among All RI Public High Schools, 2017



Note: The trend line shows the average distribution of college readiness and poverty levels for all public high schools in Rhode Island in 2017. BVP students had much higher college readiness levels than their peers at schools with a similar poverty rate.

Source: <http://blackstonevalleyprep.org/sat-results-first-junior-class/>

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"Summit Learning has given our scholars a more real sense of what awaits them after high school. **Their sense of purpose is very strong.**"

VANESSA DOUYON  
Director of Strategy

### IMPLEMENTATION JOURNEY

"To prepare every scholar for success in college and the world beyond." That's the mission statement of BVPHS, and it's what led the school's team to adopt Summit Learning shortly after founding the high school. "We are aligned with Summit in the college-going focus," says Drew Madden, director of innovation and accountability at BVPHS. "And mentoring was something we really wanted to pull off for our scholars." Summit Learning has helped BVPHS bring this vision to life for students.

In the 2015-16 school year, BVPHS implemented Summit Learning with all students — 100 9th graders and 100 10th graders. The next school year, BVPHS added 11th grade and expanded the Program to include all 275 students in grades 9-11. In the 2017-18 school year, BVPHS expanded to all 9-12 grades and offered Summit Learning to all 330 of its students. Program expansion, Madden attests, was driven by the clear impact Summit Learning has had in helping students achieve college readiness.

Madden credits part of BVPHS' student success to Summit Learning's emphasis on mentoring. Students start every morning by meeting with their mentors, which helps them find a focus for the day. "I don't think we can emphasize enough that mentoring has been really important and highly relevant to our success," Madden says.

As the first class of BVPHS seniors prepare to graduate in 2018, they are poised to fulfill their school's mission: achieving success in college and the world beyond.