



**STRIVE**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

**STRIVE Prep - Central Office**  
2490 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Suite A-230  
Denver, CO 80211  
[striveprep.org](http://striveprep.org)

To Whom it May Concern:

Founded in 2006, STRIVE Preparatory Schools is a Denver based community of free, open enrollment, public charter schools committed to providing every student with an excellent, high quality, college preparatory education. We believe that students from all backgrounds deserve a college preparatory education regardless of race, economic circumstance or previous academic achievement.

It is our vision to make a college preparatory education for all students in our community the norm, not the exception. Realizing this vision means challenging all scholars to be the best that they can be—always reaching new levels of personal achievement—with the ultimate goal of being prepared for the opportunities and challenges of college in the future. To make this possible, we must support students with the tools and resources they need to be successful every day they step inside the classroom.

Many of our teachers rely on interactive tools such as Google Classroom, Hangouts and video conferencing to implement every-day lesson plans and even provide students with the individual support to check for understanding and maximize student achievement. Reliable Internet connections in class are essential for teachers to help our students learn.

At the same time, our students need the ability to build on what they've learned in class through engaging and thought-provoking homework exercises, many of which, require using online technology and applications to complete. Without Internet access at home, many students cannot complete the necessary homework assignments that would help build their knowledge and understanding of key concepts taught in class. Similarly, many students would miss out on a chance to further develop independent learning skills, a critical component to college readiness and ensuring future college success.

Having a reliable broadband Internet source at home gives our students the ability and confidence to complete assignments, work collaboratively, conduct valuable research and even get help from teachers outside of class through tools like Google classroom.

For seniors taking the next step in their education, access to the Internet further opens the door to a college education. In fact, many of the seniors in STRIVE Prep's first graduating class are able to STRIVE for college by researching various schools and universities, independently completing online applications, and applying for competitive scholarships to support their journey to college.



**STRIVE**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

**STRIVE Prep - Central Office**  
2490 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Suite A-230  
Denver, CO 80211  
[striveprep.org](http://striveprep.org)

That said, not all of our scholars have access to a broadband Internet source away from school. As a result, some seniors are able to push themselves further along the path to college while others struggle unnecessarily. To help ensure a more equitable path to college, we surveyed families about their access to a reliable broadband Internet source and even offered a pilot through Mobile Citizen to make it possible for more students to have access to the Internet. Our greatest concern was that those students without strong Internet connections would find it more difficult to complete homework assignments and keep up with recommended steps to apply for college admissions and financial aid.

As educators, we began to see clearly how inequitable the journey to college could be simply due to the lack of a reliable Internet source. We simply cannot sit idle while students fall through the cracks of the digital divide. That's why we're so grateful to providers like Mobile Citizen, fighting along with us to ensure that students have the resources they need to succeed in the classroom and on the path to college.

Best,

Steve Holz-Russell  
Manager of Education Technology  
STRIVE Preparatory Schools