KIPP Seek Academy is our network’s third elementary school, located in Newark. Seek provides kids with a college-prep education and opportunities to participate in after-school activities.

ABOUT KIPP SEEK ACADEMY
Seek currently serves scholars in grades K-4. Seek scholars partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Newark for afterschool activities, take care of a community garden and learn about being the change in weekly values lessons.

ABOUT KIPP NEWARK
KIPP Newark schools are part of the nationally recognized “Knowledge Is Power Program” non-profit network of college preparatory, public charter schools educating elementary, middle, and high school students. In 2002, KIPP Newark first opened its doors in Newark’s South Ward as a single class of 80 fifth graders and has since grown to teach over 4,777 students in grades K-12 in Newark. 87% of KIPP Newark students currently qualify for free or reduced meals.

KIPP Newark alumni earn college degrees at more than 3 times the national average for students from low-income families. By offering highly effective educators with strong bonds to families, more time in school learning, services that support a variety of student needs, and a culture focused on achievement, our students are on the path to and through college.

“If you give kids hope and you show them what they can achieve, then you have productive citizens and it changes the world to be a better place to live in.”

— KIPP SEEK ACADEMY PARENT
WHAT MAKES KIPP SEEK ACADEMY UNIQUE?

PART OF THE TEAM AND FAMILY
Founded by a former KIPP SPARK Academy teacher, KIPP Seek Academy is able to benefit from the best practices learned at the five KIPP New Jersey schools before it. Being part of the team and family also literally means more opportunities for siblings to enroll in schools across our network.

SUPPORT FROM KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE
Our journey together starts with a visit to each child’s home before orientation, and continues through their education through elementary school, middle school, and high school. Every student that finishes middle school with us gets an alumni advisor and a KIPP Through College team to support their progress to and through college, or whatever is best for them.

CO-TEACHING
In some classrooms, students have two teachers, sometimes more, dedicated to helping them learn. In this co-teaching model, they will pull small groups for guided reading and intervention, pull individual students for reading assessments, and sometimes both teach full-group instruction. When you have two teachers in the room, every student receives the support they need.

HOW ARE STUDENTS PROGRESSING?

PROGRESS REPORTING
Students are tested throughout the year to make sure they are learning, so we don’t just rely on state tests to know if they are on track. Teachers have custom-built dashboards to make this data actionable on a daily and weekly basis. We collect hundreds of data points on each of our students throughout the year, and send them to parents weekly to keep them informed of their students’ progress. Twice a year, we use the nationally-normed MAP test to measure our progress against the nation.

RESULTS
Our students take the MAP test in the winter and spring to measure their progress on a nationally-normed scale. Our elementary students typically finish elementary school around the 70th percentile in math nationally and the 60th percentile in reading, after starting closer to the 25th percentile. They start fifth grade well ahead of other fifth graders in Newark.

VALUES

MEET TONI O’SULLIVAN, SCHOOL LEADER

Before founding KIPP Seek Academy, Toni O’Sullivan was the grade level chair of the founding second grade team at KIPP SPARK Academy, one of KIPP’s highest performing elementary schools. In 2009, she taught third grade as a founding teacher at Newark Educators’ Community Charter School, Newark’s first charter school founded by faculty of Bank Street College of Education. Previously she researched the nature of the achievement gap in the United Kingdom, as well as best practices in education, at Teach First, a nonprofit organization committed to addressing educational disadvantage in challenging schools. Ms. O’Sullivan earned her MA in Education Leadership and Management at Seton Hall University, BA in History and a BS in Human Development from SUNY Binghamton, and taught second grade at Fifteenth Avenue School in Newark, NJ as a Teach for America corps member.