



Imagine Schools

Designing the Future of Education
Here and Now

**New School Statement of Intent
2019-2020**

A Message from Our Chancellor

Dear New Yorkers,

As Chancellor, I have had the honor of speaking with thousands of you about New York City's public schools. Throughout our conversations, you have told me about your experiences and expressed your thoughts about what your schools are like today and what they can possibly become tomorrow.

It is in this forward-looking spirit that I am excited to announce Imagine Schools NYC, the NYC Department of Education's new community-led effort to create innovative and academically rigorous schools with student-centered learning environments.

Created in partnership with generous support from XQ Institute and Robin Hood, Imagine Schools NYC asks educators and YOU—New York City students, families, and community members—to come together and create or completely reimagine 40 schools. Each of these schools will push the limits of what school usually looks, sounds, and feels like, in service of providing challenging and engaging instruction that is focused on preparing students for an ever-changing world—one that is interconnected, diverse, uncertain, and complex.

Both new and existing schools can be part of this initiative. We will be working with communities that want to transform their schools into schools of the future; 20 of the 40 schools selected will be existing schools to redesign, and 20 will be new schools. Every idea will be on the table, and every design choice aligned to what we, collectively, know about great learning.

It's initiatives like these that get to the core of what it means to advance a Children's Agenda. We focus on our students' future, we focus on the world we will leave them, and we help provide the tools they need to address the challenges of tomorrow.

Likewise, Imagine Schools NYC is ultimately what Equity and Excellence for All is about—making sure that every student, in every neighborhood, in every district, in every borough, has access to learning that sparks their imagination, spurs their creativity, unlocks their brilliance, and empowers them to be the leaders of tomorrow and today.

I couldn't be more proud to work alongside XQ, Robin Hood, and all of you to make this initiative happen. I look forward to seeing many inspired ideas take flight in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Carranza
Chancellor

PHASE 1: Design Team + Initial Concept

We are thrilled that you are embarking on this journey to IMAGINE the way we “do school” in service of offering transformative, equitable, academically rigorous learning environments for the students and families in your community. This journey will require sustained, community-driven effort over a number of years. A more detailed overview of the process can be found at www.schools.nyc.gov/imagine.



This first phase is an open call to all school and community members. It is about getting to know you and your ideas a little bit better.

Deadline Extended

**Due by:
November 12, 2019**

Design teams submit a statement of intent.

Requirements:

IMAGINE Schools is a design challenge to create transformative New York City district public schools. Applicants who participate will form Design Teams and will attend Design Day sessions to better understand **[design principles](#)**.

For additional information, email: **IMAGINESchools@schools.nyc.gov**

Apply Now: www.schools.nyc.gov/imagine

New School Profile

1. (Optional) Working title for the proposed school
2. Does the school concept contemplate a specific neighborhood? If yes, how and why is this neighborhood a core element of your design?
3. Design Team point of contact information:
 - a. Name
 - b. Telephone number(s)—specify work, home, cell
 - c. Email address
4. Proposed grade levels to be served in the first year
5. Proposed grade levels to be served at scale
6. How will your school design address the needs of historically underserved students?

What to submit

Answer the profile questions above. For question 6, please provide a very specific response in 50 words or less that describes the specific underserved population your school design seeks to address. For example, “We will serve multilingual learners” is an expectation and a reality for all NYC schools; rather, we are interested in hearing about the specific student population that your school design seeks to address, such as, “This school design will support multilingual learners who are at least 14 years old and speak no English” or “This school design will serve students on the autism spectrum.”



Who is on your core team?

Design Team members should collectively result in an ambitious, diverse and innovative group that will achieve the proposed school design. The team organization should be purposeful and strategic, considering the people, time, skills and resources needed to design and develop a transformative school. The Design Team must include at minimum a K-12 student, a parent, an educator and a community member.

Resource: [Casting your Design Team](#)

1. Chart or list all members of the core Design Team. Include their strengths in relation to the work of the team, affiliations and potential roles at the school. In addition, respond to the following:
 - a. How were members of the team identified?
 - b. What relevant experience do members of the Design Team have?
2. Given the DOE's focus on student voice and equity, where and how have students been involved in the design concept? How will you involve students in the design process?
3. What evidence is there of the Design Team's capacity to work together? Consider the following:
 - a. How was the team created and structured for collaboration?
 - b. How does the team reflect diverse perspectives?
 - c. When have you met and how often?
 - d. How will you ensure that all voices are heard and engaged in the design process?

What to submit

Provide a chart or list in response to question 1. Provide a written response that answers questions 1a, 1b, 2 and 3. Please do not exceed 200 words per question.

Design Team Capacity

How will collaborators and community mobilizers impact the school?

In order for this work to grow, you will need to enlist a broad coalition of close collaborators and community mobilizers. These stakeholders could include businesses, community-based organizations, postsecondary institutions or service providers that open up resources and opportunities for students. We understand that your team may not be fully formed at this point in the process.

1. How do you envision collaborators and community mobilizers or other partners playing a role in the school's educational and operational plans?
2. How will your school draw upon deep partnerships to expand and enhance student experiences?
3. How will partners support student learning and engagement towards college and career readiness?
4. How will you establish partner roles and responsibilities and keep partners accountable for desired outcomes?

What to submit

Provide a written response that answers questions 1-4. If provided as one response, please do not exceed 800 words. If answered individually, please do not exceed 200 words per question.



What is your case for transformation?

Explain **why** it is important to transform schools now. Include insights about the challenges facing your prospective students in the 21st century, both globally and locally. Describe the data or research you obtained about your students and what you've heard from your community about what makes for powerful learning experiences. Describe students' needs and aspirations regarding the future of work and society and describe what is motivating you to create a transformative new school.

Resource: [XQ Module 2](#)

What is your bold idea?

Describe a bold idea for your school that will impact all students—a starting point that might excite your community about the future of the school. Include insights from young people about how they experience school and learning in their lives, how they see their education and career opportunities and your role in preparing them for the future. Describe the impact your idea could have on the historically underserved student populations that your school design will seek to address. Consider the following:

- What is the purpose of your school?
- Who is your school serving?
- What outcomes do you want learners to achieve?
- What makes your idea bold?
- How is this idea rooted in student voice and student learning needs?

Resource: [XQ Module 1](#)

What to submit

Upload an MP4-formatted video that answers the questions above. The video should be no more than 5 minutes in length.

Additional Resources

Data Resources

<https://data.nysed.gov/>

<https://data.nysed.gov/essa.php?year=2018&state=yes>

https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/site/research_alliance/

<https://tools.nycenet.edu/dashboard/>

<https://tools.nycenet.edu/snapshot/2018/>

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/reports/doe-data-at-a-glance>

Historically Underserved Student Communities

<https://oea.nyc/>

Instructional Planning Resources

http://www.mtnhomesd.org/uploads/5/4/5/6/54566927/xq_jump_start_guide.pdf

<https://www.weteachnyc.org/approach/instructional-leadership-framework/>

<https://www.weteachnyc.org/resources/resource/instructional-leadership-framework-guide/>

<https://xqsuperschool.org/xq-schools/xq-learner-goals>

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/35eubtuv0bcm/2CkQqxdwMwieA2WW6QKQgW/49206601ec953ee-874be7613cb9891b0/XQ-Design-Principles.pdf>

<https://xqsuperschool.org/knowledge-modules>

School Naming and Renaming Regulation

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-860>

School Staffing

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/careers/principals-and-assistant-principals/becoming-a-principal>

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/c-30-english>

“The progress of the world will call for the best
that all of us have to give.”

-Mary McLeod Bethune

“If you always do what you always did,
you will always get what you always got.”

-Albert Einstein

“Each of us will have to make the choices that allow us
to be the largest versions of ourselves.”

-Julia Alvarez

“Passion is one great force that unleashes creativity
because if you’re passionate about something,
then you’re more willing to take risks.”

-Yo-Yo Ma

“In every deliberation we must consider the impact on the seventh
generation...even if it requires having skin as thick as the bark of a pine.”

-Constitution of the Iroquois Nation

IMAGINE
SchoolsNYC

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School Planning & Development