NETWORKS & PARTNER-SHIPS

How do you expand the boundaries of learning beyond school?

XQ
The Super School Project

Schools are embedded within networks —educational, cultural, professional, and social.

They do not and should not act alone.

Meaningful learning takes place at home, in the community, through technology and social media—everywhere.

How can you build a powerful network to give students the dynamic, connected learning experiences they need?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

What individual and institutional allies will you seek out? How will you engage them?

What partners will be involved in designing and planning your school? Are they already actively engaged? If not, how will you enlist them? What roles will they play?

How will parents, volunteers, employers, post-secondary educators, and other community members participate in and contribute to your school's governance, operations, and culture?

How will you build partnerships with post-secondary education and businesses so that students can apply and demonstrate their skills in real world scenarios?

REIMAGINING EDUCATION PARTNER-SHIPS

FACT: Learning happens 24/7.

We need to rethink the definition of teaching.

Teaching doesn't just happen in classrooms anymore. Anytime, anywhere learning means that authentic educational experiences can occur in almost any setting with both formal educators and nontraditional adult teachers who are committed to sharing their expertise with young people.

A business education class at Mission Bay High School in San Diego, for example, gives students the opportunity to pitch their entrepreneurial ideas to executives from the community. College Track recruits and trains volunteer professionals in seven cities across America to give young people from underserved communities the academic support, leadership training, and financial advice they need to attend and graduate college.

It's clear that school boundaries are becoming more porous and expanding beyond the physical classroom to the local community. Valuable partnerships can be built with post-secondary education, science and arts organizations, youth development agencies, and businesses. Learning can thrive in the most unique environments; it is up to all of us to leverage our networks to redefine where teaching and learning can take place.

"Education is not something to keep in a box, even when the box is classroom-shaped. The habit of learning, an urge to find out more, develops when we feel inspired. The world outside the school is richly inspiring, constantly reenergising [sic] what takes place within the classroom. It is the source of all our learning—about our history, about our culture, about our place in the world and our relationships with each other. This two-way flow can be embedded in every child's education, entirely at ease within a super school's ethos."

REAL WORLD LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
Out of Classroom Learning

SCHOOL FACULTY REINVENTED

Schools can't do it alone. ExpandED Schools shares their ideas on expanding the definition of teacher, including a video showing what this looks like at a school in New York.

READ ▶

COLLEGE TRACK

For most students who attend college, a parent at home is their best teacher as they navigate the path after high school. But what about kids whose parents never went to college? College Track provides an answer.

READ ▶

THE FUTURE PROJECT

Discover the Future Project, which actually embeds volunteer *dream directors* into schools to help students accomplish everything they need to realize their passions.

READ ▶

STEM INNOVATIONS CHALLENGE

The Ashoka Changemakers program demonstrates a wide range of partnership models for enriching STEM learning for students, including connecting young people with local STEM professionals.

EXPLORE ▶

FACT: Collaboration opens up new possibilities.

Good high schools are portals to their communities.

To achieve the best possible outcomes for students, schools need to expand the range of expertise and resources available to students and create new pathways to real-world learning. These collaborative networks in turn expand opportunities for young people to give back to their communities.

At Montpelier High School in Vermont, students use design thinking to find out what local government and businesses need and propose possible solutions. One team of physics students analyzed the air quality downtown and submitted their findings to the city with recommendations on how to reduce pollution and improve driving patterns. Through these experiences, students develop innovative thinking skills, build empathetic relationships with their community, and learn what it's like to solve real issues with real adults.

"One of the main lessons I have learned during my five years as Secretary-General is that broad partnerships are the key to solving broad challenges. When governments, the United Nations, businesses, philanthropies and civil society work hand-in-hand, we can achieve great things."

BAN KI-MOON
Secretary-General, United Nations

IBM MEETS HIGH SCHOOL

What does a 113-year-old technology company have to do with education? In 2011, an early college high school known as P-TECH opened its doors in Brooklyn. This guide, published by IBM, tells the story of the public-private partnership that led to the school's creation.

READ ▶

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

When families, schools, and communities work together, children thrive. The US Department of Education pulled together guidance, tools, and resources for families and communities supporting the kids in their neighborhoods.

EXPLORE ▶

WORK-BASED LEARNING THAT WORKS

This guide for employers by Change the Equation explains how companies and STEM professionals can work with schools and teachers to create great work-based learning experiences. It includes tips and activities that will work for companies in any industry.

READ ▶

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Learn more about the case discussed above, Montpelier High School, in this blog posts on Edutopia.

READ ▶

FACT: When people unite in their support of young people, valuable lifelong relationships are formed.

Strong collaborators are greater than the sum of their parts.

When multiple organizations share a commitment to collectively defined goals and values, the result can make an impact greater than the sum of their individual contributions. The idea of collective impact assumes that all partners—institutions, individuals, and families—are included as legitimate, valued contributors in planning and decision-making.

In Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, for example, the Strive Partnership brought together people and organizations from across the region to improve the quality of education. Their substantial investments of time, talent, and financial resources are paying off in a double-digit increase in high school graduation rates and a 10% increase in college enrollment among students in the area.

In North Carolina, the Rural Innovative Schools initiative began in 2011 as a partnership among statewide, nonprofit North Carolina New Schools, 11 rural school districts, the State Board of Education, the Department of Public Instruction, and community colleges and universities. The initiative's goal is to expose all high school students to a college-ready culture. Students in participating high schools can earn as many as 21 college credits, tuition-free, at local community colleges and through online courses. According to state data released in May 2014, the combined dropout rate for the first five schools to join the effort fell by nearly a third.

THINK ABOUT

What accomplishments in your personal life have resulted from collective engagement?

How have shared efforts changed your community?

"My real dream is that everybody will see their self-interest tied up with someone else, whether or not they see them, and see that as an opportunity for growing closer together as a culture and as a world."

MAJORA CARTER
Founder, Sustainable South Bronx

WHAT IS COLLECTIVE IMPACT?

Wondering what collective impact is? Check out this short video from Stanford Social Innovation Review and FSG on using a collective-impact approach of cross-sector collaboration to solve complex social problems.

WATCH ▶

WHAT DOES COLLECTIVE IMPACT LOOK LIKE IN ACTION?

The Stanford Social Innovation Review and FSG share how diverse leaders and organizations in the Cincinnati Strive initiative worked together using a collective-impact approach oriented around student success.

READ ▶

STRIVE PARTNERSHIP

StriveTogether is making measurable improvements in student achievement. Check out all the ways that universities, companies, government, and nonprofits have come together for their youth participants.
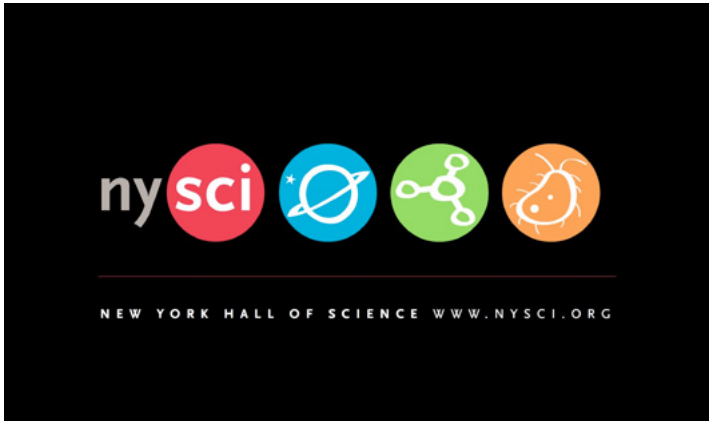
EXPLORE ▶

THE RURAL INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Learn more about the North Carolina partnership discussed above.

WATCH ▶

GET INSPIRED

A LADDER TO A CAREER IN SCIENCE

High school students who participate in NYSCI's Science Career Ladder program have a chance to absorb skills from scientists and other museum professionals at the NY Hall of Science, while also enhancing the experience of museum visitors and becoming science teachers in their own right.

READ ▶

REAL LEARNING, REAL CREDENTIALS

The Providence After School Alliance coordinates a network of community-based educators who provide real-world learning experiences to local high school students, earning them relevant skills, professional experience, and credentials that count toward graduation and college.

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Y-PLAN, ENGAGING YOUTH IN POLICY

Y-PLAN (Youth —Plan, Learn, Act, Now!) is a youth engagement program at U.C. Berkeley that connects young people and schools to local policy making, city planning, and advocacy.

EXPLORE ▶

INSPIRATION FROM NETFLIX

Learn how Netflix opened its network to teams from around the world and crowdsourced an algorithm to improve its movie recommendations.

READ ▶

GET INSPIRED

INSPIRATION FROM MTV

Check out the partnership between MTV and the Gates foundation, designed to close the ambition gap for teenage viewers of MTV.

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RECONNECTING MCDOWELL

Learn about a promising new public-private partnership in McDowell County, West Virginia.

EXPLORE ▶

GET CREATIVE

DESIGNING A SUPER SCHOOL.

with Keith Yamashita

WATCH ▶ | **KEITH YAMASHITA,** Chairman and Founder, SYPartners

EXPAND YOUR SCHOOL'S BOUNDARIES