

# EXPANDED SCHOOLS

A New Way to Increase Students' Learning Time & Opportunity



## THE PROMISE OF EXPANDED SCHOOLS

All kids deserve a well-rounded education that helps them grow into adults who can innovate, create and think for a living. But students with the greatest needs typically have the fewest chances to develop their talents and 21st century skills when the traditional school day ends at 3 PM.

ExpandedED Schools are dedicated to reversing that inequality. By giving kids in public elementary and middle schools more time and a wider range of opportunities to learn, we offer a promising way for educators and communities to reinvent schools that are struggling to fully deliver on the promise of public education. We lift the limits off the outdated school calendar. We promise students a more individualized, balanced and hands-on education and a fighting chance to succeed no matter where they begin.



A 4th-Grader's Day at Thurgood Marshall Academy, an ExpandedED School

## WHY REINVENT THE SCHOOL DAY?

- » Two-thirds of elementary students can't read or do math proficiently.
- » Kids spend 80% of their waking hours not in school.
- » The current school day was designed for an age of factories and farms, not a knowledge economy.
- » Demands on students, teachers and principals keep growing but the school day stays the same.
- » Too many schools lack the time and resources for arts, recess or inquiry-driven projects that inspire a life-long love of learning.

## THE EVIDENCE EXPANDED SCHOOLS WORK

ExpandedED Schools build on practices that are proven to lead to greater student achievement, better school attendance and more enthusiastic learners. TASC launched a national demonstration of its ExpandedED Schools initiative in 11 elementary and middle schools in 2011. In year one:

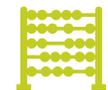
- Students in ExpandedED Schools increased their math proficiency, surpassing citywide gains in each of the three cities
- Students in ExpandedED Schools improved their attendance
- In New York City, students, teachers and parents ranked ExpandedED Schools higher than citywide averages on safety, communication, student engagement and academic expectations



**8:00 BREAKFAST**  
with Mahler's 5th Symphony



**8:30 READING**  
"Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing"



**10:00 MATH**  
Obtuse, acute and right angles



**12:00 CIVICS**  
Comparing/contrasting political leaders



**1:10 ART**  
Paint a Harlem streetscape in the style of Bearde

## THE FOUR CORE ELEMENTS OF EVERY EXPANDED SCHOOL

1. More learning time for a balanced, hands-on curriculum
2. Partnership between the school and community
3. Engaging and personalized instruction
4. Sustainable cost model for long-term reform



## WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT EXPANDED SCHOOLS?

**The Team:** Each school partners with an experienced youth-serving organization to bring in new resources and staff members such as AmeriCorps volunteers. Teachers, administrators, parents and community partners work together to reinvent the school day to more fully meet the needs of their kids. Community educators help teachers personalize instruction, build a lively culture of exploration and achievement and fortify kids against lives often marked by stress and hardship.

**The Schedule:** The school day expands by roughly three hours to match parents' working hours without mandating longer hours for teachers.

**The Curriculum:** Schools increase academic rigor and offer a wider variety of learning opportunities such as music and web design that support and expand on core knowledge.

## CAN WE AFFORD THIS?

Yes. ExpandedED Schools by TASC are built to get better results from the investments we already make in education and youth development. When schools and local leaders commit to bringing those resources together, we can leverage them more efficiently to expand learning among kids with the greatest needs. ExpandedED Schools achieve 35% more learning time at less than 10% additional cost to the school day – about \$1,600 per student. Based on current experience, schools and community partners find between half and two-thirds of that cost in their existing budgets.



### AN EXPANDED SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

When Principal Danika LaCroix was assigned to replace a failing Brooklyn elementary school with a new school, she vowed to give her students as rigorous and broad an education as kids get in more affluent neighborhoods. Young Scholars' Academy for Discovery and Exploration re-opened with a learning day that was three hours longer, accomplished through a partnership with TASC and a strong community organization — University Settlement.

The school divided the extra learning time between intensive math and English and experiences chosen by kids and parents, including fencing and robotics. Today YSADE is one of New York's most improved schools as measured by leaps in math and English proficiency. "We didn't just add a few more minutes of what teachers were already doing," Principal LaCroix said. "We reinvented from the ground up with a community vision and a team commitment to help every student find that spark."



● **2:00 SCIENCE**  
Testing water properties



● **3:30 PLAY**  
Rehearsal



● **4:00 CAPOEIRA**  
Brazilian Music and Movements



● **4:45 SPORTS**  
Step team or soccer



● **5:30 HOMEWORK**  
One-on-one assistance



## THE EXPANDED SCHOOLS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The ExpandedED Schools approach was developed and is supported by TASC (The After-School Corporation). TASC is a nonprofit organization with more than a decade of experience partnering schools with community organizations to support, educate and inspire all kids to succeed. We've helped 464,000 kids while helping New York City build an after-school system.

TASC works with these partners to implement ExpandedED elementary and middle schools:

- » **Baltimore:** The Family League of Baltimore City, Inc. and Baltimore City Public Schools
- » **New Orleans:** Partnership for Youth Development
- » **New York City:** NYC Department of Education and Department of Youth and Community Development



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