

# The Four Pillars

## Celebrating Accomplishments

1

### Improve Student Achievement by Providing High-Quality Instruction Aligned to the Common Core State Standards

- Pre-Kindergarten: high-quality, full-day pre-k for all
  - Middle school: expanded enriching after-school programs
  - Teachers' contract: increased opportunities for weekly professional development
  - Borough-wide teacher conferences
  - Promotion policy: promotion decisions
- now based on a comprehensive review of students' classroom work in addition to their test scores
- Teen Thursdays: new after-school initiative to enable middle school students to take advantage of the rich learning opportunities available through local cultural institutions.
  - Expanded summer learning opportunities, such as Summer Quest

2

### Restore Dignity and Respect to the Craft of Teaching and School Leadership

- Learning Partners: launched program to enable principals and schools to share best practices and learn from one another
  - Principal Notes: launched monthly newsletter for principals
  - Book of the Month: highlighting themes particularly relevant to our work
- Chancellor's school visits: more than 60 schools over last six months
  - Teachers' contract: Introducing Ambassador, Model and Master teacher programs to help teachers hone their craft and learn alongside their colleagues.

3

### Engage Parents and Families in Every Aspect of School Life

- Citywide elementary-, middle- and high-school parent conferences
  - Professional development for parent coordinators
- Blue Book Working Group to involve parents and community members in space-sharing decisions
  - Increased time for parent-teacher conferences

4

### Create New Collaborative and Innovative Models

- \$22 million investment to develop 40 innovative community schools
  - PROSE: one-year pilot to allow schools to pursue creative ways to increase student learning
- Partnerships to expand arts education
  - Meet and greet series with more than 100 representatives of leading businesses, cultural institutions, and community groups

# The Four Pillars

A Vision for all New York City Public Schools

## 1 Improve Student Achievement by Providing High-Quality Instruction Aligned to the Common Core State Standards

- Focus additional attention and resources on second, seventh, and tenth grades, because each is critical to a student's success in later grades.
- Increase opportunities for universal, high-quality, full-day pre-kindergarten, the foundation for a student's success in high school and beyond.
- Strengthen support for middle schools by introducing interactive arts instruction, and offering enriching after-school programs to promote creativity and confidence.
- Develop and enhance 21<sup>st</sup>-century digital skills by integrating technology into all classrooms and expanding students' exposure to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curricula.
- Close achievement gaps by expanding bilingual and dual-language programs for English Language Learners.
- Create innovative services and programs, including the expanded use of assistive technology, for students with disabilities.

## 2 Restore Dignity and Respect to the Craft of Teaching and School Leadership

- Recognize and celebrate our educators' dedication, talent, and expertise.
- Provide substantial administrative, legal, and fiscal support to school leaders so that they can focus on teaching and learning.
- Give school leaders an opportunity to participate in policy decisions and professional development.
- Increase opportunities for educators to share and replicate strong practices and learn from one another.
- Reform system-wide accountability by reducing the reliance on test scores and incorporating more qualitative measures for success.

## 3 Engage Parents and Families in Every Aspect of School Life

- Host frequent parent workshops and conferences so that families can learn more about their children's education and have access to experts in the field.
- Expand English as a Second Language, computer, and financial literacy classes for parents so that they can better support their children's education.
- Increase the use of social media, email, and written publications to expand outreach and help parents understand and participate in their children's education and policy-making decisions.
- Increase training opportunities for parent coordinators so that they may forge stronger relationships with parents.

## 4 Create New Collaborative and Innovative Models

- Harness the vast and exceptional resources of our City to partner with community stakeholders, such as businesses, non-profits, local colleges, and cultural institutions.
- Create more community schools through partnerships with organizations equipped to provide services to meet the social, emotional, and health needs of students and their families.
- Partner with businesses and universities to establish new Career and Technical Education high schools for energy and technology so that all students can find pathways to college and rewarding careers.
- Enlist every New Yorker in our mission to improve our schools, because everyone benefits from a world-class educational system.

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The New York City Department of Education is committed to working collaboratively with parents, educators, school communities, and external stakeholders to improve student achievement and ensure that every child graduates from high school prepared for college, a career, and a future as a productive, critically-thinking citizen.