Learning From Great Practice

Schools to Visit in 2018

Springpoint is a national nonprofit that partners with districts, charters, and networks to design and launch innovative high schools that can meet the needs of all students, preparing them for college and career success. We provide school design and planning workshops, implementation supports, tools and resources, customized coaching, and learning experiences that help educators do school differently.

We released our original Schools to Visit guide last year as a resource for school designers and leaders. It was sourced through visits we had done as part of our work, as well as through recommendations from our partners and colleagues. This year, we've added some schools and expanded the descriptions of others. The diverse group of learning organizations on this list represents an array of models that engage students in interesting ways, and prepare them to meet the demands of college and career. Each school is listed below, categorized by region, along with a brief profile description, contact information, and a highlight of the key innovation elements to observe.

Hosting visitors can be an exciting opportunity for innovative schools to share new knowledge, but it can also pose a lift of varying weight for new or growing schools. If you decide to plan a visit, we recommend that you contact the host school at least one month in advance of your anticipated visit date to allow time for scheduling and preparation. Visits to small, growing schools are most effective in groups of about five, and more established schools can usually accommodate 10 to 15 visitors. To ensure that planning for the visit happens as smoothly as possible, here are some steps to keep in mind:

- Determine who on your team will be the point(s) of contact to communicate with the host school prior to the visit, as well as who will organize the visit logistics for your team.
- Identify any blackout dates for visitation that are off limits for your team or may not be ideal for the host school (testing, holidays, trips, and other school-wide events).
- Send an introductory email to the leader of the host school expressing your interest in visiting their school and what you are hoping to see (in brief). Include specific dates for your proposed visit.
- When setting your agenda with the host school, be sure to communicate:
  - your burning questions and areas of interest; and
  - any requests for specific policies or work products that you would like to see, e.g. master schedule, student and staff recruitment materials, grading policies, etc.
- Whenever possible, try to arrange dedicated time to talk to students.

We hope this guide can be useful as you expand your learning and exposure to great practice.

If you have any additions to the list, or any other feedback or suggestions, please reach out to info@SpringpointSchools.org. For more about our work and our partners, and to explore our other guides and resources, visit our website, and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

NEW YORK CITY AREA

BRONX ARENA HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Alternative School, Collective Strengths, Iteration, Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Technology

Bronx Arena High School is a transfer school serving over-age, under-credited students. The school is a collaboration between the Department of Education and SCO Family Services, a social service agency that provides social and emotional support, as well as college counseling. Students are paired with "advocate counselors" from SCO Family Services. Students work through a web-based mastery system at their own pace, and receive 1:1 and small-group support from teachers in flexible "arena" blocks. Each arena has a generalist teacher and an advocate counselor, both of whom support students academically and personally throughout the day. Students also work with content specialists who push in during the day to provide additional one-on-one or small group instruction in particular areas. Generalists and content specialists collaborate closely and analyze data to ensure all students are receiving the supports they need to be successful.

What to look for:
The school combines online learning with face-to-face instruction in a method pioneered by Principal Ty Cesene at an alternative school in El Segundo, California. Bronx Arena develops its curriculum materials in-house, through a rigorous faculty review process. Technology components—specifically a custom-built data system accessible to students and staff at all times—create a personalized experience where students work at their own pace, mastering the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. Students track their own productivity and work toward completing five learning tasks per day. To receive credit for a course, students must demonstrate mastery by completing two challenges and a capstone project. Students complete senior portfolios on a topic of their choice that represents a culmination of their learning.

To learn more:
View a case study on Bronx Arena (Part 1, Part 2)
Check out an in-depth case study from The Learning Accelerator here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (718) 860-5056
School Address: 1440 Story Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473

BROOKLYN LAB CHARTER SCHOOL

Key Features:
Data, Human Capital, Personalization, Technology

Located in downtown Brooklyn, Brooklyn Lab Charter School started as a 6th-8th grade middle school, providing students with the academic foundation, digital literacy, and leadership skills necessary to succeed in college and professional life. Student learning takes place in a large room that can support a variety of learning environments, including classroom-like settings in the corners of the room and small-group sessions with movable whiteboards and tutors. LAB is an XQ Super School winner and is using the $10 million prize to create two new high schools, the first of which launched in fall 2017 with a founding 9th grade class. Springpoint has supported this model design work.

What to look for:
LAB's focus includes personalizing learning via a blended curriculum that features 1:1 Chrome books. The school combines traditional classroom instruction with personalized learning, technology, and tutoring from Lab Tutor Corps Fellows (full-time tutors with bachelor's degrees). Many of these tutors serve as teaching fellows who then enter a teaching residency to instruct alongside more seasoned educators. Teachers work to tailor each student's learning experiences to their interests and needs so that learning is accessible and engaging. Students can choose from a variety of course offerings including digital literacy training, video game design, digital production, and robotics. All 9th graders take AP Seminar.

To learn more:
View a school profile of Brooklyn Lab here
View news coverage of the school's XQ win here, here, and here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (347) 429-8439
School Email Address: admissions@brooklynlaboratoryschool.org
School Address: 240 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

BROOKLYN FRONTIERS

Key Features:
Alternative School, Internships, Partnerships, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Social Emotional Learning

Brooklyn Frontiers High School is an open enrollment, small alternative high school that serves over-age, under-credited students. Brooklyn Frontiers was founded in order to exclusively serve students who have been held-over twice before entry into high school. Through an integrated partnership with Good Shepherd Services, Brooklyn Frontiers provides students with small classes, online courses and tools, project-based electives, interest-based clubs and sports, paid internships, and coaches to help them create personalized academic plans.

What to look for:
Even within the peer grouping of transfer schools, Brooklyn Frontiers reaches students that have the highest needs across the factors that are used to define challenges associated with serving over-age and under-credited students. Students have six years to complete high school in recognition of the often intense

academic and SEL supports needed to help them to achieve proficiency and, ultimately, to graduate. Coaches and small class sizes help students access individualized attention and support. The school has also designed intensive literacy support and remediation that is age-appropriate and tailored to students' needs.

To learn more:
Read a ChalkBeat article here
Read about the transfer school partnership work with Good Shepherd Services here
See these findings from an impact evaluation study of the Good Shepherd Services transfer model here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (718) 722-4727
School Address: 112 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

EPIC NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Culturally Responsive Education, Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Student Voice

EPIC High Schools, an outgrowth of the NYC Expanded Success Initiative, makes learning responsive, engaging, and accessible at their three high schools (a fourth is in development). The EPIC model is driven by four core values that let students solve real-world problems and progress at their own pace: competency-based, culturally responsive, human-centered, and integrated. Teaching and learning is organized around a core set of skills, mindsets, and abilities that students must master in order to graduate. Classes are organized into four categories: studios (interdisciplinary classes on Math, Science, ELA, and Social Studies), "selectives" (choice-based art, movement, and special interest classes), targeted support (daily tutoring and enrichment classes), and CORE (advising, group mentoring, and college and career exploration class).

What to look for:
EPIC's approach to cultural responsiveness is modeled after work that was developed and tested in 40 NYCDOE district schools. The approach is meant to ensure that every member of the school community genuinely feels safe, supported, empowered, and important. Circles, family conferences, and victim-offender mediation are critical elements of the restorative practice model, and serve as vehicles for creating safe and equitable dialogue among community members, inclusive of staff and students. A Morning Meeting ritual every day brings students together as a community, and provides space for them to center themselves, celebrate their identities, and build community. Elements of the Morning Meeting ritual are designed and led by students, and students guide the agenda.

To learn more:
View the Epic Schools Playbook here
View a US Department of Education article referencing EPIC schools here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (718) 570-8230
School Email Address: info@epicschoolsnyc.org
School Address: 94-25 117th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11419

FLUSHING INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
English Language Learners, Mastery-based Learning, Partnerships, Positive Youth Development, Project-based Learning

Flushing International High School (FIHS) is part of the Internationals Network for Public Schools. FIHS's mission is to serve recent immigrants to the United States who are new learners of English. The school focuses on developing students' proficiency in English while simultaneously developing their skills in their native language and empowering them to engage with rigorous interdisciplinary content in learner-centered environments. The school views every teacher as both a language teacher and a teacher of academic content and skills; students develop language skills and academic content simultaneously with each reinforcing the other. Classes are mixed according to age, grade, academic ability, prior schooling, native language, and linguistic proficiency. Prior to entry, FIHS students have all resided in the United States for less than four years. Collectively, they represent 40 countries and speak over 20 languages. The school organizes its teaching cycle around three types of learning outcomes: work habits, language, and academic disciplines. Teachers meet once a week within their academic disciplines and their cohort teams, which has led to more interdisciplinary projects and strong learning outcomes. Brooklyn International and Bronx International are sister schools.

What to look for:
FIHS embodies a holistic framework of mission, vision, and culture. The school is deeply connected to the community and performs extensive family outreach as well as social justice advocacy on behalf of its students. The school provides a wide array of community services, including legal support. The school culture is organized around 12 principles: collaboration, peace and justice, self-expression, academic excellence and learning, love and belonging, holism, respect, caring for our environment, honoring diversity, community building, leadership, and creativity. Principal Lara Evangelista was a founding member of the school, serving as a teacher and assistant principal before becoming principal. The school has a transparent and intentional approach to mastery, which also serves to bolster the project-based focus and support students as they hone their English language skills.

To learn more:
Read a New York Times article on FIHS here
Read a CompetencyWorks piece about their mastery model here
Listen to an NPR story on FIHS here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (718) 463-2348
School Address: 144-80 Barclay Avenue, Room 324B, Flushing, NY 11355

NYC iSCHOOL

Key Features:
Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Technology

NYC iSchool is dedicated to equipping students with the skills necessary for success and leadership in the 21st century. The iSchool program is designed to offer students opportunities to engage in meaningful work that has relevance to them and the world, choice and responsibility in determining their high school experience, and unique structures to support their development.

What to look for:
iSchool's core values include innovation, individualization and personalization, and metacognitive skill development. These values help to drive the school's four-pronged model in which students develop their skills through challenge-based modules, online learning, advisory, and core experiences. The Area of Focus program helps students explore their interests and passions in a chosen area by developing their foundational knowledge, gaining real-world understanding of the field, completing advanced coursework like an AP course, and crafting a senior project. Their blended learning model, where technology is used as a tool, is also incorporated into all aspects of the school.

To learn more:
Read a Guardian article on NYC iSchool here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (917) 237-7300
School Address: 131 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013

SOUTH BRONX COMMUNITY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Culturally Responsive Education, Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development

South Bronx Community Charter High School launched in 2016 as part of the EPIC network. Similar to EPIC North High school, the instructional model centers on four categories of classes: studios, "selectives," targeted support, and CORE (see EPIC North's profile on page 5 for more details). The school is competency-based, allowing students to fulfill performance tasks—rigorous, engaging, and complex projects—in order to progress. Learning pathways are accessible online and students move at their own pace, receiving support as needed.

What to look for:

The school convenes students each day in a Morning Circle to develop community spirit. Students lead an activity and the ritual of libations, an opportunity to thank those who have helped them to where they are today. Students also participate in brotherhood and sisterhood groups as part of the school's Rite of Passage program that supports identity development and the formation of positive peer relationships. SBCCHS often uses integrated and thematic curriculum and instruction, based on the belief that it provides a more authentic real-world application than the segregated domains of traditional subjects. For example, students might all read the same text, which is then used as a foundation of learning across disciplines.

To learn more:

View the South Bronx Community Charter High School handbook here

To schedule a visit, contact:

School Phone Number: (917) 237-7300
School Address: 890 Washington Avenue, Bronx, NY 10451

TECH VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:

Human Capital, Partnerships, Project-based Learning, STEM, Technology

Tech Valley High School (TVHS) is a regional public high school serving grades 9 through 12 that integrates technology, business acumen, and immersive science, technology, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) education in a project-based learning environment. The school is part of the New Tech Network and serves as a demonstration site for the network. Tech Valley High School's approach to project-based learning incorporates hands-on, student-centered activities in every lesson. It was founded through a collaboration between two Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)—Questar III and Capital Region BOCES—and is a regional resource for propelling education into the 21st century.

What to look for:

Tech Valley is teacher founded and led, with input from businesses and higher education institutions in its community. Many partners have continued to help provide enriching opportunities for student learning, including hosting two-week internships for seniors. The school's model incorporates the use of technology, 21st century skills, multimedia presentations, and industry partnerships.

To learn more:

Read a one-pager on TVHS here
Read an article on TVHS here

To schedule a visit, contact:

School Phone Number: (518) 862-4960
School Email Address – Lorinda Jensis, Administrative Assistant: ljensis@techvalleyhigh.org
School Address: 246 Tricentennial Drive, Albany, NY 12203

URBAN ASSEMBLY MAKER ACADEMY

Key Features:
Iteration, Maker Education, Mastery-based Learning, Partnerships, Personalization

UA Maker, within **The Urban Assembly Network**, believes the world needs problem solvers who can find and solve challenges to create positive change. UA Maker aims to empower students not only to be successful, adaptive citizens of the future, but also to create that future through design thinking and innovation. The UA Maker community prioritizes the core values of curiosity, empathy, risk taking, self-awareness, and resilience. The school launched as part of the Opportunity by Design initiative, funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and supported in their model design work by Springpoint.

What to look for:
Teachers and students work together to help students demonstrate mastery of content and skills. Grades at UA Maker provide precise, actionable feedback about students' ability to master the design thinking process, content knowledge and the skills they need to be truly college and career ready. A strong advisory program and weekly check-ins, called "self-awareness days," help students develop the agency and skills needed to direct their own learning. The school's robust partnership network connects students to unique, real-world opportunities that help them develop 21st century workplace skills.

To learn more:
Read a CompetencyWorks case study about UA Maker here
Read a ChalkBeat article on UA Maker here
Watch a UA Maker student tell her story of iteration and success here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (212) 225-0890
School Address: Murry Bergtraum Campus, 411 Pearl Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10038

URBAN ASSEMBLY SCHOOL FOR APPLIED MATH AND SCIENCE

Key Features:
Human Capital, STEM

The Urban Assembly School for Applied Math and Science (AMS) strives to prepare students to become compassionate, critical thinkers capable of successful pursuits after high school. From individual and group explorations into math and science-based projects to dynamic internships, the school uses math as a powerful, unifying tool for learning.

What to look for:
Principal Dave Krulwich authored a book titled the "Artisan Teaching Model" on his innovative approach to supporting new and developing teachers by marrying teamwork with an apprentice-artisan relationship, in which newer teachers work closely with more seasoned classroom teachers to develop their skills. The

school has a strong set of supports to help students who may be falling behind, including a summer program for selected students who have struggled in the school year.

To learn more:
Read a review by InsideSchools here
Read a Q&A with principal David Krulwich on his approach to teacher development here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (718) 466-7800
School Address: 1595 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457

URBAN ASSEMBLY SCHOOL FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Key Features:
Human Capital, Partnerships, Student Supports & Transitions

The Urban Assembly School for Emergency Management (UASEM) is a public Career and Technical Education high school that prepares students to engage in complex quantitative and qualitative reasoning skills with an understanding of the principles of emergency management. Students gain the skills necessary for entry into the emergency management field *and* to succeed at a college of their choice.

What to look for:
UASEM employs a unique leadership model and has comprehensively documented this model from design to implementation, providing visitors a powerful opportunity to observe quality systems and codification work. At the end of 10th grade, students select a pathway—similar to a college major—in order to focus more intently on an emergency management area of their choice: response and recovery; emergency communications and technology; or emergency management. Students engage in internships, collaborative simulations, student-led community trainings, and strong industry partnerships to merge college and career readiness strands.

To learn more:
View a Wall Street Journal article about UASEM here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (212) 225-0998
School Email Address: info@uasem.org
School Address: 411 Pearl Street, Room B30, New York, NY 10038

URBAN ASSEMBLY SCHOOL FOR LAW & JUSTICE

Key Features:
College & Career Supports, Iteration, Partnerships, Positive Youth Development, Student Supports & Transitions

The Urban Assembly School for Law & Justice (SLJ) is a college-preparatory high school with an emphasis on legal studies and debate. Students of SLJ are prepared for college and beyond through a rigorous academic program that features personalized relationships and experience in the professional world. Work is project-based, challenging, and heavily infused with reading and writing. Evaluation methods are transparent so that students can track their own progress.

What to look for:
SLJ has a robust college preparation and partnership engagement model that includes pre-college opportunities, college access programs, campus visits, and career prep for current and former students upon their graduation from college. The school has an iterative and collaborative approach to instructional planning so that what students learn in one class is strongly reinforced by instruction in other classes. All students participate in law-focused internships in their junior and senior years.

To learn more:
Read an article about UASLJ here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (718) 858-1160
School Email Address: info@sljhs.org
School Address: 283 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SCHOOL OF ASTORIA

Key Features:
Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, STEM

Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria (TYWLS of Astoria) is a single-sex New York City public school that was established to prepare low-income and minority women from diverse backgrounds for college and other post-secondary experiences. TYWLS of Astoria nurtures the intellectual curiosity and creativity of young women by supporting the "whole girl" in order to maximize academic achievement, social emotional well-being, and postsecondary success. It is a college bound initiative (CBI) school that serves middle and high school students.

What to look for:
TYWLS embeds college exposure into its culture beginning in 6th grade. A robust bridge program helps to orient incoming students, particularly to the school's mastery-based learning system, and to set the stage for the school's strong college-focused culture. A new STEM lab serves as a hub for graphic design, filmmaking, coding, and web design with a creation space for 3-D printing and Robotics.

To learn more:
View a video on TYWLS here
Read a Q&A with two TYWLS students here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (718) 267-2839
School Address: 23-15 Newtown Avenue, Astoria, NY 11102

NEW ENGLAND

BOSTON DAY AND EVENING ACADEMY

Key Features:
Alternative School, Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development

Boston Day and Evening Academy (BDEA) re-engages off-track students in their education, preparing them for high school graduation, post-secondary success, and meaningful participation in their community. BDEA is an alternative school serving over-age, under-credited students. It offers wraparound services, individualized supports, and digital tools that create a personalized approach to learning. Through the Engage New England initiative—funded by the Barr Foundation and supported in their model design work by Springpoint—BDEA is designing a new, competency-based school model focused on student progress that will enable them to serve significantly more students.

What to look for:
Students can enter at any point in the trimester at BDEA. Upon entrance, students are acclimated to the school's mastery-based system. BDEA is open 12 hours a day and thoroughly mastery-based, with digital tools that support a personalized approach and adventure-based leadership training. With strong positive youth development and advisory components, students can also graduate anytime throughout the year.

To learn more:
View a Springpoint profile of BDEA here
View a CompetencyWorks profile of BDEA here
View a video of BDEA here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (617) 635-6789
School Address: 20 Kearsarge Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119

CASCO BAY HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Mastery-based Learning, Partnerships, Personalization, Positive Youth Development

Casco Bay High School (CBHS) is an expeditionary learning, mastery-based public high school in Portland, Maine. Casco Bay challenges and supports students to become college-ready through its 3Rs: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships. One hundred percent of graduates in its first three graduating classes were accepted to college. The school's aim is for each student to "Get Smart to Do Good." Casco Bay High School is part of a national cohort of high-achieving, progressive and urban high schools in the EL Education network. It serves as one of EL Education's "Mentor Schools" in their national network.

What to look for:
CBHS is intentionally small so that staff can get to know each student deeply, and so teachers can better personalize instruction that will help students become their best selves. Its instruction is driven by Learning Expeditions that result in quality work about genuine problems for a real audience. Learning Expeditions are long-term, in-depth studies of a single topic that explore compelling social justice questions, incorporate vital standards, require fieldwork, and culminate in an authentic project, product, or performance. CBHS partners with nonprofits in the community to facilitate these projects. Topics are driven by student interests with a strong emphasis on getting students out of the classroom and into the community. As part of their mastery framework, CBHS measures both performance on content knowledge, as well as each student's 'habits of work' skills, which are the same across subjects and grade levels.

To learn more:
View a Springpoint profile of Casco Bay High School here
Read this four-part series from CompetencyWorks here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (207) 874-8160
School Address: 196 Allen Avenue, Portland, ME 04103

FRANCIS W. PARKER CHARTER ESSENTIAL SCHOOL

Key Features:
Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Project-based Learning

Parker Charter opened as a mastery-based public school of choice for middle school and high school students in Devens, Massachusetts. Parker was founded on 10 principles, shared by the members of the Coalition of Essential schools, including the belief that "The school's goals should be simple: that each student masters a limited number of essential skills and areas of knowledge." Parker was designed to promote a cohesive culture and to personalize and support student journeys to mastery-level work.

What to look for:
Parker is an example of project-based, mastery-based learning and teaching. The school's cohort experience organizes students into three divisions, each of which more or less corresponds to two years of traditional grade levels. Instead of 7th and 8th grades, Parker has Division 1; 9th and 10th grades are Division 2; and 11th and 12th grades are Division 3. Students spend an average of two years in each division, moving ahead when they have demonstrated mastery and readiness to do so.

To learn more:
View a Springpoint profile of Parker Charter Essential School [here](#)
Read an article in The Atlantic that focuses on the school's multi-age approach [here](#)

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (978) 772-3293
School Address: 49 Antietam Street, Devens, MA 01434

HALL-DALE MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL (MAINE'S RSU2)

Key Features:
Iteration Improvement, Mastery-based Learning, Partnerships, Personalization, Positive Youth Development

Maine's Regional School Unit 2 (RSU2) is composed of grades 6-12 in Farmingdale, Maine. The key elements of RSU2's model for learning communities across the district include standards-based, teacher-designed curriculum assessment practices that support learning; the use and development of effective, learner-centered teaching strategies; monitoring learning and providing feedback; and continuous improvement. RSU2 has developed structures to support their model by focusing on curriculum and instruction, leadership, articulation agreements with higher education institutions, and developing community learning partnerships.

What to look for:
Several elements of RSU2's model, particularly its mastery-based practices, are worth exploring. RSU2's model is particularly explicit about rigor and its connection to student mastery and progress to graduation. Additionally, they have utilized their learning platform to make students' progress along their articulated proficiencies transparent to both students and parents.

To learn more:
View a Springpoint profile of RSU2 [here](#)
Read a about RSU2's approach to mastery [here](#)

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (207) 622-6351
School Address: 7 Reed Street, Hallowell, ME 04347

MAKING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (MC^2) CHARTER SCHOOL

Key Features:
Asynchronous Learning, Internships, Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development

Making Community Connections Charter (MC^2) is a mastery-based high school with student agency at the center of its design that serves students in Manchester, NH. MC^2 was founded by the QED Foundation and benefits from a strong pedagogical underpinning and related frameworks and systems that were developed in the QED's work with other mastery-based schools. In their time at MC^2, students are expected to master two sets of competencies: Essential Knowledge (academic content knowledge) and Habits (dispositions and ways of behaving that support lifelong learning across disciplines). Students demonstrate proficiency and beyond on a continuum that extends from Emerging Competency to Lifelong Competency.

What to look for:
Rather than grade levels, the school has four phases that learners pass through at their own pace. Progress through the phases is illustrated on a "J-curve." The bottom left of the J corresponds to a student's first year (more or less) at MC^2—a time when the student is encouraged to focus on developing habits of being and doing that lead to steeper gains in academic content learning in the next phases. As students move up the J-curve, they need less scaffolding in the habits and can focus more on acquiring the essential knowledge they need to graduate. MC^2 has an elaborate system of advisories, individual learning plans, rubrics, checklists, exhibitions, a learner diagnostic tool and a customized system of digital portfolios to scaffold and evaluate each student's progress through the phases and up the J-curve.

To learn more:
View a Springpoint profile of MC^2 here
View a CompetencyWorks profile of MC^2 here
Read about their internship program here

To schedule a visit, contact:
Manchester Campus Phone Number: (603) 935-7488
Manchester Campus Address: 60 Rogers Street, Unit 203, Manchester, NH 03101
Monadnock Campus Phone Number: (603) 283-0844
Monadnock Campus Address: 149 Emerald Street, Suite UP3, Keene, NH 03431

NEXT CHARTER SCHOOL

Key Features:
Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development

Next Charter School was founded as a collaboration between the local school district and the charter operator, with founding board members including administrators and school board members from the district. The school was designed to meet the needs of students not fully served within a traditional high school setting. It employs a system of instructional and assessment practices that value competency,

inquiry, flexibility, and the social nature of learning so that all students will graduate and initiate post-secondary learning options.

What to look for:
Core features of Next Charter that support student engagement include advisory, individual learning plans, community meetings, monthly field work, and regular exhibitions. The school prioritizes flexibility for students to engage in learning opportunities outside of school, including through their capstone project, which requires an internship component. Examples of student stories can be found here.

To learn more:
View a Springpoint profile of Next Charter School here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (603) 437-6398
School Address: 5 Hood Road, Derry, NH 03038

PHILADELPHIA

SCIENCE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Key Features:
Human Capital, Mission & Culture, Partnerships, Project-based Learning, STEM, Student Supports & Transitions

The Science Leadership Academy (SLA) is the result of a partnership between the School District of Philadelphia and The Franklin Institute. SLA is an inquiry-driven, project-based high school focused on 21st century learning. SLA provides a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum with a focus on science, technology, mathematics, and entrepreneurship. Students at SLA learn in a project-based environment where the core values of inquiry, research, collaboration, presentation, and reflection are emphasized in all classes.

What to look for:
SLA's curriculum is designed and iterated upon by teachers, as are a robust set of rigorous resources that students use in their project-based learning. STEM and internships are also strong components of the model. Advisory meets for a full hour twice a week.

To learn more:
Read an article on SLA here
Listen to student perspective interviews here
Learn more about SLA's inquiry process here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (215) 979-5620
School Address: 55 N 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

DC AREA

INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AT LANGLEY PARK

Key Features:
English Language Learners, Mastery-based Learning, Mission & Culture, Project-based Learning, Student Supports & Transitions

The International High School at Langley Park is part of the Internationals Network for Public Schools. The school launched as part of the Opportunity by Design initiative, funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and supported in their model design work by Springpoint. They serve a population entirely comprised of English language learners, many of whom are recently arrived immigrants, through a competency-based approach with a focus on asynchronous learning and cultural enrichment programs. A partnership with CASA de Maryland provides students with a range of social, health, legal and educational services. The school culture centers on three core values of empowerment, collaboration, and critical thinking.

What to look for:
IHSLP has heterogeneous classrooms, and students collaborate on authentic projects designed to provide opportunities for students at varying levels of proficiency. Through this collaboration, students self-select into different roles. There is a strong focus on personalization to help students develop critical thinking skills, language proficiency, and ownership of their learning. There are no stand-alone ESL classes at these schools, so every teacher focuses on building both content and language skills.

To learn more:
View the IHSLP 2016-17 Student and Family Handbook here
Read blog post by IHSLP principal Carlos Beato on his experience shadowing a student here
IHSLP's assistant principal describes the school's community partnership in a two-part series here and here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (301) 702-3910
School Email Address – Carlos Beato, Principal: carlos.beato@pgcps.org
School Address: 5150 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Key Features:
Human Capital Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Project-based Learning, Technology

Washington Leadership Academy is an open-enrollment public charter high school that equips students with technology skills and prepares them for lives of public leadership. Opened in 2016, the school has a unique focus on virtual reality (VR). The school is an XQ Super School and they plan to use a portion of the prize to hire developers to bring their VR vision to life. For example, a virtual chemistry lab could not only give students hands-on access to a variety of chemistry experiences but goes beyond what's possible in a physical lab (e.g., a VR tour of a molecule). Students have choice in the classes and have options around what projects they work on in different disciplines.

What to look for:
The school imparts technology skills so that students are not just consumers of tech but creators of tech. Students will take computer science for all four years—in 9th grade, they take the CIW web development certification exam and 10th graders take AP Computer Science. The school is also taking a new approach to staffing, hiring freelancers with hard-to-find skills such as remote tech programmers who don't want to leave full time jobs or experts who could teach electives like photography, DJing, or criminal forensics.

To learn more:
View Washington Leadership Academy's Resource Library here
Read an article on The 74 here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (240) 580-3371
School Email Address: info@wlapcs.org
School Address: 3015 4th Street, Northeast, Washington, D.C. 20017

MIDWEST

CARPE DIEM (AIKEN CAMPUS)

Key Features:
Collective Strengths, Data, Iteration, Personalization, Positive Youth Development

Carpe Diem Schools use a personalized blended-learning model that offers self-directed learning with a digital curriculum and flexible scheduling. The school's blended approach is a strong example of an effective combination of personalized, online learning in a lab setting paired with direct instruction from master teachers. Carpe Diem Schools provide students and parents with a high-performance alternative to traditional schools, based on the successful model of the first Carpe Diem school in Yuma, Arizona.

What to look for:
This school distinguishes itself from other schools, even those in the Carpe Diem network, because of its strong leader, impressive positive youth development approach, and consistent use of data to inform and

improve instruction. Parents, too, have access to real-time student data, including attendance, grades, and academic progress.

To learn more:
View a video on Carpe Diem here
Read a blog post on Carpe Diem by JoEllen Lynch, Founder of Springpoint, here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (513) 363-6600
School Address: 5641 Belmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45224

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM SCHOOL

Key Features:
Human Capital, Partnerships, Personalization, Place-based Education, Technology

As a Grand Rapids Public Schools Center of Innovation, the Grand Rapids Public Museum School will ultimately grow to serve grades 6 through 12. Current middle school students attend classes in the Grand Rapids Museum. The high school will also launch in the museum with its freshman class this fall as an XQ Super School. Students will also spend much of their time outside the classroom engaging in real-world educational experiences. The school's curriculum will provide students opportunities to explore their community and to leverage creative problem solving and design thinking skills through hands-on learning experiences.

What to look for:
Current students not only benefit from a collection of over 250,000 artifacts and specimens that they get to see and touch every day but also from access to museum staff, who teach classes and partner with students to build exhibits. The school is also deeply immersed throughout the city, and community members can propose classes to teach as guest instructors.

To learn more:
View a video on the Public Museum School here
Read an article about the Public Museum School here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (616) 819-3600
School Address: 272 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

INTRINSIC SCHOOLS

Key Features:
Collective Strengths, Data, Iteration, Personalization, Operations, Technology

Intrinsic is an open-enrollment, public charter school serving students in grades 7 through 12. The school blends technology with great teaching, enabling students to own their education and personalize their path to college and career. Intrinsic is focused on personalized learning and using data to inform instruction. It is committed to creating a revolutionary new school model in order to prepare all students for post-secondary success and provide the education community with a roadmap to sustainable implementation of personalized learning.

What to look for:
Their new building is a strong example of how space can be leveraged to support a school's academic model. "Pods," a main feature of their school building, are flexible classroom settings where about 60 students rotate from independent work, to project-based learning, to collaboration and more. The backend platform design of the school's technology and its data use are also interesting.

More about them:
View a profile on Intrinsic here
Read a story on Intrinsic here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (708) 887-2735
School Email Address: inquiries@intrinsicschools.org
School Address: 4540 W Belmont Avenue, Chicago, IL 60641

IOWA BIG

Key Features:
Community Collaboration, Partnerships, Project-based learning, Voice and Choice

Iowa BIG is a competency-based, community-integrated high school program primarily comprised of students from its three partner districts, the Cedar Rapids Community School District, the College Community School District (Prairie), and the Linn-Mar Community School District. Iowa BIG is heavily project-based, focusing on the intersection of personal interest, interdisciplinary academics, and collaboration with partners in the wider community. While it is not a standalone school, there are interesting model elements that schools could incorporate, particularly if project-based learning and partnerships are a key interest.

What to look for:
Iowa BIG's project-based model is driven by student voice and choice. Students choose from a list of projects that have been co-designed by students, teachers, and partners to meet real needs of local businesses, nonprofits, and government. Some students work toward identifying and designing their own projects.

To learn more:
Read an article about Iowa BIG here

Listen to a podcast featuring a leader, teacher, and student at the school [here](#)

MC^2 STEM HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Maker Ed, Mastery-based Learning, Partnerships, Personalization, Project-based Learning, STEM, Technology

MC^2 STEM was created through a public-private partnership among a number of organizations in Cleveland, with the intention of providing students with an integrated curriculum informed by real-world experiences. The school serves about 400 students, all of whom are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Students attend classes at campuses embedded in business and school sites around the city—the Great Lakes Science Center, General Electric (GE) Lighting's Nela Park campus, Cleveland State University, and various college campuses.

Teachers cover all subjects and standards through integrated, transdisciplinary project-based learning with a STEM emphasis. MC^2 STEM uses a mastery-based grading system, and students must achieve 90% or above on each learning outcome in order to receive credit.

What to look for:
At any given time, you may see freshmen and sophomores immersed in workshops with tutors from NASA or developing rigorous capstone projects alongside engineers from GE Lighting. The companies work to stay connected to students, providing internships, mentorship programs, co-ops, and even scholarships. Try to catch one of the school's four Fab Labs, including a [mobile Fab Lab](#).

To learn more:
Read an article about MC^2 STEM [here](#)

MINNESOTA NEW COUNTRY SCHOOL

Key Features:
Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Project-based Learning

Minnesota New Country School (MNCS) is a tuition-free, public charter school serving grades K-12 with an emphasis on technology, individualized project-based learning, and relationships. It is part of an education collaborative called Edvisions that use Project Foundry and a variety of tools to support student-centered and project-based learning.

What to look for:
The school has a well-equipped recording studio, art studio, wood shop, metal shop, science lab, ceramics workshop, media center, kitchen, greenhouse and workout equipment. The student/teacher ratio is intentionally kept low in order to foster strong relationships between students and staff. The school runs throughout the year in five to seven week blocks. Students keep a daily log of how they spend their time and complete detailed self-assessment rubrics.

To learn more:
View an article on MNCS here
Take a look at a very detailed Day in the Life of a student here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (507) 248-3353
School Address: 210 Main Street, Henderson, MN 56044

PURDUE POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Mastery-based Learning, Partnerships, Project-based Learning, STEM, Student Supports & Transitions

Purdue Polytechnic High School has a dual focus on STEM and hands-on project-based learning. It opened in 2017 as part of the Indianapolis Public Schools Innovation Network. The school's curricula is designed to keep students engaged, challenge them to reach their maximum potential, and equip them to meet high expectations. Students are expected to work on six projects throughout the year that are proposed or co-sponsored by organizations in the community.

What to look for:
Purdue Polytechnic High School allows students to learn at their individual level of mastery. Teachers work in small groups or individually to craft instruction for students who need extra support or who are positioned to work through the curriculum at an accelerated pace. The school is the result of a partnership between Indianapolis Public Schools and Purdue University, and successful graduates will be given automatic admission to the University.

To learn more:
View an article about the school's recent launch here, here, and here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (317) 832-1200
School Email Address: pphsi@purdue.edu
School Address: 525 S Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

AVESON GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Key Features:
Collective Strengths, Human Capital, Mastery-based Learning, Personalization

Aveson Global Leadership Academy (AGLA) is a tuition-free 6th-12th grade charter school that employs a thorough mastery approach, while also focusing on personalization and projects. Students graduate from AGLA having built a resume of academic success, social entrepreneurial experiences, and healthy living practices. These achievements are accomplished through a Mastery Learning Portfolio (MLP) and complemented by a highly supportive advisory system within a democratic learning community.

What to look for:
The school develops a personalized learning plan for each student, and they utilize teachers (called Academic Advisors) and paraprofessionals (called Project Managers) in unique ways. They focus on mastery, use of rubrics, student agency, and peer-to-peer assessment.

More about them:
View a video about AGLA here
Read an article about AGLA here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (626) 797-1438
School Email Address: admissions@aveson.org
School Address: 575 W Altadena Drive, Altadena, CA 91001

DA VINCI SCHOOLS

Key Features:
Partnerships, Personalization, Project-based Learning

Da Vinci Schools is a network of free, public, college-preparatory charter schools serving grades K-13, open to all students in California regardless of district boundaries. Da Vinci Schools have a "learn by doing," project-based curriculum focused at the intersection of college-preparatory skills and real-world readiness. Their curriculum offers career pathway courses aligned to high-skill, high-demand careers, as well as strategic public-private partnerships with industry, higher education, and nonprofit leaders to help define the knowledge and skill sets students will need to succeed in the 21st century global workplace.

What to look for:
Each student has a learning pathway tailored to their learning style while working toward a set of common competencies. Students work together on cross-disciplinary projects to develop critical thinking and learn how to solve real world problems. Students have the opportunity to earn college credit, with different pathways to choose from that fit their needs and preferences, including Da Vinci Extension. Da Vinci Extension is a 13th year, high structure, free college and career GAP program in which students acquire college credit and complete two internships (one for-profit, one nonprofit). A pilot program, Da Vinci Flex, was launched to support high-need, transient students. This pilot won the XQ Super Schools competition as RISE High School, which provides personalized and competency-based learning and deep wraparound services, including counseling and legal services.

To learn more:
View an article on Da Vinci Schools here
Read an article from Getting Smart here

To schedule a visit, contact:
Network Phone Number: (310) 725-5800
Network Address: 201 N Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245
For specific campus numbers and addresses, see here

DEL LAGO ACADEMY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Key Features:
Mastery-based Learning, Partnerships, Personalization

Del Lago Academy, opened in 2013, is designed around a core academic program that engages students in real-world learning in order to better prepare them for success in college and career. The school created a competency-based system—Competency X—to focus on creating authentic learning experiences. The school works to weave relevance into each day's learning experience in every content area, developing students' habits of work, supporting college and career exposure and exploration, and expanding opportunities. Community and industry partners serve as mentors to enrich the curriculum, give students feedback on their work, and share personal career experiences.

What to look for:
The school has an early warning system, a systematic method for identifying students in need of additional academic, attendance, behavioral, or social-emotional interventions. Also note the school's restorative

practices and X-block, an exploratory block with student-designed electives based on their interests. The state-of-the-art facility spans three buildings and includes eight science labs, one of which is a mock hospital room with three patient beds. Their MAP program guarantees admission to California State University San Marcos for students who meet certain requirements, and enables them to be eligible for tuition assistance.

To learn more:
Read an article about the school here
View an article from Getting Smart here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (760) 291-2500
School Address: 1740 Scenic Trails Way, Escondido, CA 92029

HIGH TECH HIGH

Key Features:
Collective Strengths, Human Capital, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Project-based Learning

Developed by a coalition of San Diego civic leaders and educators, High Tech High (HTH) opened as a small public charter school. HTH has since grown into a network of 13 charter schools serving approximately 5,300 students in grades K-12 across three campuses. The Gary and Jerri-Ann Jacobs High Tech High is the original High Tech High school, located at HTH Village in San Diego, serving grades 9-12. Known for their project-based learning, HTH utilizes a unique schedule and strong student-centered approach.

What to look for:
HTH is a great place to see personalization, project-based learning, utilization of human capital, and student agency in action. The HTH organization also includes a Teacher Credentialing Program and the High Tech High Graduate School of Education, which offers professional development opportunities serving national and international educators. Read about it here.

To learn more:
View a video on High Tech High here
View a video on High Tech High's Project-Based Learning (PBL) approach here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (619) 243-5000
School Address: 2861 Womble Road, San Diego, CA 92106
Tours and semester-based residencies can be scheduled via their website here

LINDSAY HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Data, Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Technology

In 2007, Lindsay Unified School district launched a strategic plan to drive innovation across their K-12 schools and prioritize the empowerment of students as active participants in their learning. The school focuses on a "performance-based learning" model (similar to mastery or competency-based learning) that allows students to progress at their own pace when they can demonstrate proficiency in a content strand. The system is designed so that every student knows what they are learning and where they are going in a particular area. Differentiation is created through grouping strategies, one-on-one support, and the availability of multiple content resources on playlists.

What to look for:
There is a great deal of voice and choice at Lindsay High School, and a strong balance of self-directed learning and facilitator-led instruction. Even during facilitator-led sessions, students can choose where to focus their time as facilitators tend to focus on small group and individual instruction. Students have two, 90-minute Personalized Learning Time blocks each week to focus on key areas where they need more support or would like to accelerate. Teachers look at individual student data to help students identify how to maximize their Personalized Learning Time.

To learn more:
View an in-depth look at Lindsay High Schools model here
Read the first in a five-part series on Lindsay Unified School District here
Read an article from EdSurge here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (559) 562-5911
School Address: 1849 E Tulare Road, Lindsay, CA 93247
Tours can be booked through their website here

THRIVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Key Features:
Data, English Language Learners, Operations, Personalization, Project-based Learning, Social Emotional Learning

Thrive is a K-12 public charter organization and blended learning school in San Diego that prepares students to be community-minded, college-prepared, and career-inspired. To make sure this happens, the schools in the network personalize learning and engage learners through a three-tiered approach that integrates project-based, personalized, and social-emotional learning. There are systems in place that enable teachers to use data to personalize learning and foster agency in learners.

What to look for:
The model allows for teachers to have significant collaborative planning time and data review. Because of the precise attention to personalized learning and the commitment to students with diverse needs, the schools are worth visiting to glean best practices in Special Education and English language learner inclusion.

To learn more:
Read an article on Thrive [here](#)
View an NGLC profile of Thrive Public Schools [here](#)

To schedule a visit, contact:
Network Phone Number: (619) 839-9543
Network Email Address: info@thriveps.org
High School Address: Kroc Center Campus, 6845 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92115

USC HYBRID HIGH

Key Features:
Human Capital, Iteration, Operations, Personalization

USC Hybrid High (USC HHS) is a college preparatory, public charter high school in Downtown LA serving students in grades 9 through 12. USC HHS is operated by the charter management organization [Ednovate](#) and is one of five schools in the network. Ednovate's mission is to close the college graduation gap through its Theory of Change, in which a strong sense of purpose, a personalized college prep curriculum, and development of specific mindsets will allow each student to persist through college.

What to look for:
Following an overhaul of their original model, USC Hybrid High developed a 1:1 blended model where students work at their own pace through online modules to acquire college-ready skills. The school utilizes flexible learning settings and focuses on self-direction and self-motivation to enable students to learn in different spaces collaboratively, independently, and with assistance from teachers. They have an interesting teacher autonomy structure that encourages teachers to participate in curriculum selection and school design iteration.

To learn more:
View a video on USC HHS [here](#)
View a profile on USC HHS [here](#)
Read an article on USC HHS [here](#)

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (213) 929-1046
School Email Address: info@uschybridhigh.org
School Address: 350 S Figueroa Street, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90071

BAY AREA, CALIFORNIA

ALPHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS: CINDY AVITIA HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Iteration, Personalization, Technology

Alpha: Cindy Avitia High School is a small, tuition-free community school. The school is part of Alpha Public Schools, a network of public charter secondary schools that prepare students in low-income communities to develop the knowledge, skills, and character traits they will need to succeed in college and career. Alpha: Cindy Avitia is the first high school in Alpha Public Schools; they use design thinking as a way to put students' needs first. The focus areas of the school include building strong relationships, high expectations, personalized learning, technology, parent empowerment, and leadership development.

What to look for:
Alpha: Cindy Avitia is a great place to see how personalized learning and flexible learning environments have been implemented, systematized, and iterated upon. The school includes a flexible block where students can receive support on a class they are struggling with or attend seminars for deeper learning. This also gives teachers time to review data and select students that need support in their classes.

To learn more:
Read an article on Alpha: Cindy Avitia here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (408) 791-1558
School Address: 1881 Cunningham Avenue, San Jose, CA 95122

DESIGN TECH HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Iteration, Mastery-based Learning, Operations, Personalization

Design Tech High School (d.tech) is an innovative, free public high school authorized by the San Mateo Union High School District and founded by teachers and parents. The model is based on a design thinking approach, and they aim to be highly personalized, mastery-based, and project-based, with the goal of graduating students who are "innovation ready." In January 2018, d.tech moved into new facilities—designed in part by students—on the campus of Oracle Corporation. Oracle employees act as mentors to students and the building features a two-story workshop called the Design Realization Garage where students can collaborate with their peers and teachers to create product prototypes.

What to look for:
d.tech is a good thought partner for other new schools around start up challenges, mastery, and unique scheduling. They also feature strong student voice and choice components.

To learn more:
View a video on d.tech [here](#)
Read an article about their new facilities [here](#)

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (650) 231-2701
School Email Address: info@dtechhs.org
School Address: 1800 Rollins Road, Burlingame, CA 94010

ENVISION EDUCATION

Key Features:
Community Collaboration, Partnerships, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Project-based Learning

Envision Education runs three small, high-performing urban public schools in the San Francisco Bay Area: City Arts and Tech High School in San Francisco, Envision Academy in Oakland, and Impact Academy in Hayward. The schools employ project-based learning and teachers embed academic content in projects that speak to students' life experiences and that have relevance and application in the real world. Envision also uses community-based projects and internships at partner organizations and businesses as part of its educational model through the Workplace Learning Experience.

What to look for:
In addition to using traditional forms of testing, Envision uses an assessment system that emphasizes students' deep understanding of academic disciplines. Students assemble a portfolio of their best work, which they must "defend," dissertation-style, in front of an audience of educators, peers, and community members. Students must present a defense of their work at the end of 10th grade, and for seniors, passing the college success portfolio defense is a requirement to graduate from an Envision School.

To learn more:
View videos about Envision's "warm demander" approach [here](#)
Read a report from the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education that includes Envision [here](#)

To schedule a visit, contact:
Network Phone Number: (510) 451-2415
Network Email Address: info@envisionschools.org
Network Address: 111 Myrtle Street, Suite 203, Oakland, CA 94607

LEADERSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS: HAYWARD

Key Features:
College & Career Readiness, Mission & Culture, Partnerships, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Social-emotional Learning

LPS Hayward's mission is to serve diverse and traditionally underserved students by building a network of outstanding small public schools to prepare students to succeed in college and beyond, develop effective student leaders, and partner and share best practices with other school districts to strengthen themselves and other public schools.

The design of LPS schools is based on their six pillars of educational excellence: high expectations, significant support, student leadership, talented staff sustained by extensive professional development, parent and community involvement, and focus on results. 'Shout-outs' (positive feedback) and 'call-outs' (areas for improvement) are a regular practice of both student-driven and staff-driven recognition of students. Through a rigorous academic program, students develop strong analytical and leadership skills to be effective thinkers across disciplines. At LPS Hayward, students approach their academic work with a growth mindset and draw on a set of character strengths and habits to collaborate, problem solve, and achieve their goals. The school deeply invests in its incoming 9th grade class to ensure that they will be ready to accelerate throughout their time at Hayward. The school is dedicated to leveraging technology as a tool—not a panacea.

What to look for:
The school invests heavily in students' academic and social-emotional growth, supporting them to cultivate their identities, build a set of skills toward success, and take agency and ownership over their learning. Pride, opportunity, and rigorous targets are recurring themes expressed both by students and staff, and the school's college-going and growth-mindset culture, fueled by a 'no nonsense nurture' approach, is palpable. Many of the students are English language learners and the school invests heavily in opportunities for families to engage in students' learning and future plans.

To learn more:
Read an article about LPS's tech development approach here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (510) 300-1340
School Email Address: hayward@leadps.org
School Address: 28000 Calaroga Avenue, Hayward, CA 94545

NEW TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL NAPA

Key Features:
Mission & Culture, Partnerships, Positive Youth Development, Project-based Learning

New Technology High School is focused on project-based learning and college readiness. Classes require students to master both content and 21st century skills through project-based learning where students solve complex, real-world problems and present or display their findings to a public audience. All project work is tied directly to developing student learning outcomes, which are assessed using detailed rubrics. In partnership with SCALE (Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity), the school implements rigorous, project-embedded college readiness assessments to ensure all students are aware, prepared, and eligible for whichever post-high school experience they choose. The school community works to maintain a culture of trust, respect, and responsibility that promotes student ownership, voice, and choice. Teachers are referred to as Curriculum Designers, and they are organized into embedded professional learning communities.

What to look for:
New Technology High School's strong, interdisciplinary, project-based learning makes it a school to visit to see student agency in action. Students receive and act on feedback from their peers as well as their teachers. There are minimal school-wide policies, as both staff and students understand the commitment necessary to implement a rigorous and relevant curriculum, in which technology, standards, and skill development are embedded. Graduation requirements include working 50 hours in an approved internship in the areas of business, education, nonprofit, or technology. In addition, all students are required to complete 20 hours of community service and complete college coursework. In 2018, New Tech is moving toward an inquiry-based model, with a focus on one interdisciplinary inquiry question per cohort.

To learn more:
Read an article on New Tech Napa here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (707) 259-8557
School Address: 920 Yount Street, Napa, CA 94559

SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Key Features:
Collective Strengths, Data, Human Capital, Personalization, Operations, Technology

Summit Public Schools is a charter management organization serving diverse communities in the Bay Area and Washington state. Through 11 schools serving over 3,000 students, Summit prepares its students for success in college, career, and life, empowering them to become contributing members of society. The schools are small, personalized, and rigorous, focusing on project-based learning, personalized learning time, and building core math and literacy skills.

What to look for:
Every student has a personalized learning plan managed through Summit's Personalized Learning Platform (PLP), Basecamp. Developed in partnership with Facebook engineers, it is a free, open-sourced learning management system for grades 6 through 12. Over 100 schools currently use the PLP, which boasts projects,

online learning resources, and tests across disciplines. Teachers and administrators from other schools apply to join Summit Basecamp and, if accepted, receive training and support alongside PLP access. The network has a sharp focus on college planning, which is introduced to students and tracked from their first day. College planning goes well beyond acceptance; students develop four core areas that help form the foundation for a lifetime of success: cognitive skills, content knowledge, real-world experiences, and habits of success (e.g., persistence). The network has a strong leadership pipeline, asynchronous learning and assessment, and a focus on 36 cognitive skills across all content areas.

To learn more:
Follow a student's "Day in the Life" at Summit here
View a case study of Summit Public Schools here
Read about Summit's personalized learning approach here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (650) 556-1110
School Email Address: info@summitps.org
School Address: 455 5th Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94063

WEST

DENVER SCHOOL OF INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Key Features:
Collective Strengths, Iteration, Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Technology

The Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design (DSISD) is Denver's first competency learning high school. Its competency model meets students where they are, allowing them to advance as they acquire new skills and knowledge. DSISD's vision is to empower all students to own their learning, shape their dreams, and create a better world. The school focuses on four key elements to build toward this vision: equity, where all students get access to and success in "high-value" learning opportunities; ownership of learning through competency-based education; personal relevance to the future; and creative leadership for greater good through social, environmental, and civic leadership. The school launched in 2015 as part of the Opportunity by Design initiative, funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and supported in their model design work by Springpoint.

What to look for:
DSISD implements its vision through a rigorous curriculum in humanities and STEM-based CORE classes, and it empowers all students to reach their potential, acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college and careers, and play meaningful roles as citizens of the 21st century. A Flex Block allows students to get support or work on other areas of interest through extracurriculars or self-directed study.

To learn more:
Read an article on DSISD by Springpoint's founder here
Read an article on DSISD here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (720) 424-2000
School Address: 150 S Pearl Street, Denver, CO 80209

DSST: GREEN VALLEY RANCH HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Personalization, Positive Youth Development, School Culture

Part of the DSST Public Schools Network across eight campuses, DSST: Green Valley Ranch High School (DSST: GVR) is a deliberately integrated community that serves a diverse population. The school's mission is to prepare all students for success in college and the 21st century, and programming centers around six core values – respect, responsibility, courage, curiosity, integrity, and doing your best. The school culture aims to foster academic and personal success, and to build a strong and supportive community.

What to look for:
Through the advisory program at DSST: GVR, every student receives personal attention and is held accountable for community participation and contributions, academic effort, and achievement. Four days a week, all students and staff begin the day with a morning meeting focused on the core values, and celebrating the school's college-going culture and community building.

To learn more:
Read an article on DSST: GVR here
Read a Chalkbeat article mentioning DSST: GVR here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (303) 524-6300
School Address: 4800 Telluride Street, Building 2, Denver, CO 80249

INNOVATIONS EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Collective Strengths, Human Capital, Mastery-based Learning, Self-Direction, Technology
At Innovations Early College High School, students have the opportunity to heavily customize their schedules. In fact, choice is a central aspect of the school, pervading a student's entire experience. Through the personalized education plan, a student may take anywhere from one to eight courses at a time, progressing whenever they are able to demonstrate mastery. Students can even choose when to arrive at

school, as long as they spend six and a half hours at school sometime between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Students work with a mentor teacher to set their own goals and move through self-paced online lessons.

What to look for:
The school attracts students of varying levels of academic success. At any point in the day, you may see students working alone, meeting with teachers, or collaborating with fellow students on projects, labs or small group discussions. Teachers and tutors are available by appointment and regularly circulate to provide support. Students may also attend classes at East High School, Highland High School, and West High School as needed.

To learn more:
Read an in-depth article on the school's model here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (801) 481-4947
School Address: 1633 Edison Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84115

JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SCHOOL

Key Features:
Experiential Learning, Mastery-based Learning, Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Self-Direction, Student Supports

Jefferson County Open School (JCOS) provides a vibrant, viable alternative to conventional schooling. It features a pre-K through 12th grade environment with multi-age groupings throughout the school. Students work closely with their advisor in the development of their personal curriculum, and there is a constant focus on fostering strong, caring relationships between students and adults, and among students. JCOS maintains an emphasis on personal, social, and intellectual development with the goal of preparing students for a constantly changing world.

What to look for:
JCOS integrates a focus on self-direction, learning through experience, shared responsibility, and the development of life-long skills. The school is centered on five primary values: curiosity, responsibility, courage, personal best, and respect. The school offers many multi-age classes in which students write narrative self-evaluations instead of receiving a grade from a teacher. These form the basis of a student-written transcript created over a student's time at the school. All students complete a 'Walkabout' that includes six "passages," which are projects developed by each student in six different areas that demonstrate how students can apply their skills to the real world.

To learn more:
Read an article on JCOS here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (303) 982-7045
School Email Address: info@jeffcoopen.org
School Address: 7655 W 10th Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80214

NEW VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Personalization, Positive Youth Development, Student Voice and Choice

New Vista High School engages every student in rigorous learning through a program that emphasizes high academic and behavioral expectations, personal relationships built on mutual respect, support from an advisor from enrollment to graduation, shaping of programs to meet students' needs and interests, active learning, and learning opportunities in the community. The school culture values individuals, community, and integrating a focus on understanding and valuing diversity in all learning.

What to look for:
New Vista's program implements small class size, a quarterly calendar, weekly opportunities for learning in the community, social action and environmental stewardship opportunities, off-campus learning in technical or post-secondary programs, advisory groups, heterogeneous and multiage class groupings, and an inclusive program for ELLs. The school leadership team speaks to every graduating student and uses their feedback to inform the school's iteration practices.

To learn more:
Read an article honoring New Vista here
Read an interview with a New Vista student here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (720) 561-8700
School Address: 700 20th Street, Boulder, CO 80302

WILLIAM SMITH HIGH SCHOOL

Key Features:
Human Capital, Iteration, Mastery-based Learning, Project-based Learning

William Smith High School originally launched as a program for expectant mothers, and primarily served over-age, under-credited (OAUC) students. In recent years the program has evolved, and while not explicitly geared towards an OAUC population, they see themselves as an alternative to the more traditional offerings of the Aurora School District. Project-based learning was an evolution of the school's model and they became an EL Education site in 2006. The day starts with a skill-based "Brain Training" class followed by mixed-age Crew (akin to advisory). For the rest of the day, 10-12th graders work on one or two projects. Each

project is 4-6 weeks in length. Freshmen have a more structured schedule, and educators work to help them acclimate to the project-based work to come. As a student approaches graduation, he or she will spend time off-campus in an internship or engaged in college classes. Students also design their own Capstone Projects.

What to look for:
Projects integrate fieldwork, guest experts, and authentic audiences that help bring curriculum to life. The hands-on nature of the school's approach reflects a workplace environment that will prepare students for the future. As students develop products and presentations they learn content while gaining academic and 21st century skills like collaboration, creativity, and problem solving. The school has a teacher residency program, which trains talent and serves as the main hiring pipeline.

To learn more:
Read an article from the Denver Post here
Watch a video to learn about the school from a student's perspective here

To schedule a visit, contact:
School Phone Number: (303) 634-8715
School Email address: info@williamsmiths.org
School Address: 400 Airport Boulevard, Aurora, CO 80011