

# Learning From Great Practice

*Schools to Visit in 2017*



[Springpoint](#) is a national nonprofit organization that supports the design and launch of new, innovative public high schools. Since 2013, we have partnered with school districts, school networks, and charter management organizations around the country to design and launch new high schools. We provide design guidance, implementation support, and technical assistance to partners as they reimagine secondary schools. Our student-centered school design process includes opportunities for our partners to visit, observe, and learn from the innovative work of schools around the country.

We've compiled this guide as a resource for school designers and leaders. It has been sourced through visits we've done as part of our work, as well as through recommendations from our partners and colleagues. 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 is listed below, by region, with a brief profile description, contact information, and a highlight of the key innovation elements to look for.

If you decide to visit, we recommend that you coordinate with the host school at least one month in advance of your anticipated visit date to allow time for scheduling and general accommodation of your team. Visits to small, growing schools are most effective in groups of about five, and fully grown 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:

- 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).
- 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).
- When setting the agenda with the host school, be sure to communicate:
  - your burning questions and areas of interest;
  - 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](mailto: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

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### BRONX ARENA HIGH SCHOOL

#### Key Features:

Iteration, Mastery, Personalization, Youth Development, Collective Strengths, Technology, Alternative School

Bronx Arena High School is a transfer school serving over-age, under-credited youth. 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 the SCO Family Services. Using technology to create a personalized education experience, students work in a self-paced learning environment, mastering the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

#### 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. Students work at their own pace through a web-based mastery tracker and receive 1:1 and small-group support from teachers in flexible “arena” blocks. Bronx Arena develops its curriculum materials in-house, through a rigorous faculty review process.

#### To learn more:

View Part 1 of a case study on Bronx Arena [here](#)

View Part 2 of a case study on Bronx Arena [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’s Tech Triangle, Brooklyn Lab Charter School prepares 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade students with the academic foundation, digital literacy, and leadership skills necessary to succeed in college and professional life. The school focuses on personalizing learning for students via a blended curriculum that features 1:1 Chrome books. Additional course offerings include digital literacy training, video game design, digital production, and robotics. In 2016, LAB won the [XQ: The Super School Project](#) and will get \$10 million over five years from XQ to create a new high school for about 800 students. Springpoint will support this model design work.

**What to look for:**

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. School begins at 8:30 am and ends at 5:30 pm, and the school's staff comprises six lead teachers and 24 Lab Tutor Corps Fellows (full-time tutors with bachelor's degrees).

**To learn more:**

View a school profile of Brooklyn Lab [here](#)

View new coverage of the school's XQ win [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (347) 429-8439

School Email: [admissions@brooklynlaboratoryschool.org](mailto:admissions@brooklynlaboratoryschool.org)

School Address: 240 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

**BROOKLYN FRONTIERS**

**Key Features:**

Partnerships, Personalization, Youth Development, Internships, Social Emotional Learning, Alternative School

Brooklyn Frontiers High School is an open enrollment, small transfer 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. The school is one of only two in NYC that represent the Accelerated Achievement model (AAM) and serve this population. 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. They afford students six years to complete high school in recognition of the intense academic and SEL supports that are required to help them achieve graduation proficiency.

**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:

Blended Learning, Human Capital, Mastery, Personalization, Student Voice, Culturally Responsive Education

[EPIC High Schools](#), an outgrowth of the NYC [Expanded Success Initiative](#), makes learning responsive, engaging, and accessible. It engages students in solving real-world problems and supports their individual progress and growth. The EPIC model infuses four approaches to teaching and learning: competency-based, culturally responsive, human-centered, and integrated.

### What to look for:

EPIC North is a fairly new school currently serving grades 9-11 with an interesting intersection of several design principles. EPIC's approach to cultural responsiveness is modeled after work that developed and was tested in 40 NYCDOE district schools, and demonstrates the EPIC schools' commitment to learning as a means of reflection and empowerment.

### To learn more:

View the Epic 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: [info@epicschoolsnyc.org](mailto:info@epicschoolsnyc.org)

School Address: 94-25 117<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11419

## [FLUSHING INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL](#)

### Key Features:

English Learners, Partnerships, Project-based Learning, Youth Development

Flushing International High School is part of the [Internationals Network for Public Schools](#), and it enables students to gain proficiency in English while maintaining fluency in their native language. Students who begin at the school have been in the United States for less than four years. As a group, FIHS students represent 40 countries and speak over 20 languages. [Brooklyn International](#) and [Bronx International](#) are sister schools.

### What to look for:

FIHS embodies a holistic framework of mission/vision/culture with deep ties to the community, and performs extensive family outreach and social justice on behalf of its students. Principal Lara Evangelista was a founding member of the school, serving as a teacher and assistant principal before becoming principal.

### 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 Ave, Room 324B, Flushing, NY 11355

[MERIT PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL](#)

**Key Features:**

Data, Human Capital, Mastery, Technology, Personalization

Managed by the national nonprofit [Matchbook Learning](#), Merit Preparatory Charter School of Newark is a charter with a focus on preparing all students to be accepted to a 4-year college. Resources at Merit include a built out data system and playlist for students, and personalized learning plans. Students experience learning in personalized classrooms, where they can sit in small groups to learn, practice, apply and assess their learning knowledge and skills appropriate for their level. They demonstrate evidence of mastery of their learning targets in classrooms designed around a shared vision, common language, routines, rituals and restorative practices all designed to foster student-centered learning.

**What to look for:**

Merit's hallmark is blending online instruction and in-person teaching to provide a personalized, future-oriented educational experience. Students advance asynchronously at their own pace.

**To learn more:**

Learn about the tech systems at Merit Prep [here](#)

View a video tour of Merit Prep [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (973) 642-4400

School Email: [info@meritprepschools.org](mailto:info@meritprepschools.org)

School Address: 909 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

[NYC iSCHOOL](#)

**Key Features:**

Mastery, Personalization, Technology, Youth Development

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:**

In service of its core values of innovation, individualization and personalization, and metacognitive skill development, and with the reality of the system and the unique needs of adolescents in mind, the school leaders developed a four-prong model: challenge-based modules; online learning; advisory; core

experiences. Supporting these four instructional approaches are three important systems: student scheduling, individual student mastery tracking, and the school's [Area of Focus program](#), which helps students explore their interests and passions. The school also employs a blended learning model, where technology is used as a tool, which is 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

## [TECH VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL](#)

**Key Features:**

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

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. Tech Valley High School's approach to project-based learning creates hands-on, student-centered activities out of 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, and incorporates the use of technology, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, multimedia presentations, and industry partnerships into its model.

**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 - Lorinda Jensis, Administrative Assistant: [ljensis@techvalleyhigh.org](mailto:ljensis@techvalleyhigh.org)

School Address: 246 Tricentennial Drive, Albany, NY 12203

## [URBAN ASSEMBLY MAKER ACADEMY](#)

**Key Features:**

Iteration, Mastery, Personalization, Maker Education, Partnerships

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 to create that future through design thinking and innovation. The UA Maker community values and 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.

**To learn more:**

Read a CompetencyWorks case study about UA Maker [here](#)

Read a ChalkBeat article on UA Maker [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (212) 225-0890

School Address: Murry Bergtraum Campus, 411 Pearl Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10038

[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* for a college of their choice.

**What to look for:**

UASEM employs a unique leadership model and has completed comprehensive documentation mapping from design to implementation year, making this a unique site to observe quality systems and codification work. Students engage with internships, collaborative simulations, student-led community training, 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: [info@uasem.org](mailto:info@uasem.org)

School Address: 411 Pearl Street, Room B30, New York, NY 10038



## URBAN ASSEMBLY SCHOOL FOR LAW & JUSTICE

### Key Features:

Iteration, Partnerships, Student Supports & Transitions, Youth Development

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. Teachers plan collaboratively so that what students learn in one class is strongly reinforced by instruction in other classes. 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, and iterative instructional planning under the guidance of a seasoned principal. In their junior and senior years, all students are placed in law-focused internships.

### To learn more:

Read an article about UASLJ [here](#)

### To schedule a visit, contact:

School Phone Number: (718) 858-1160

School Email: [info@sljhs.org](mailto:info@sljhs.org)

School Address: 283 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

## THE YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SCHOOL OF ASTORIA

### Key Features:

Mastery, Personalization, 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 is part of an establishment that 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:

As a CBI school, it embeds the idea of college from the beginning of 6th grade, and students are given the opportunity to visit colleges. 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](#)

To schedule a visit, contact:

School Phone Number: (718) 267-2839

School Address: 23-15 Newtown Ave., Astoria, NY 11102

## NEW ENGLAND

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### BOSTON DAY & EVENING ACADEMY

**Key Features:**

Personalization, Mastery, Youth Development, Alternative School

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 a transfer school serving over-age, under-credited students, offering wraparound services, individualized supports, digital tools that create a personalized approach, and a competency-based program of teaching and assessment that is entirely centered on student progress. BDEA strives to be an innovative leader in student-centered education for off-track learners.

**What to look for:**

BDEA is open 12 hours a day and thoroughly mastery-based with wraparound services, digital tools that help create a personalized approach, and adventure-based leadership training. With strong youth development and advisory components, students can graduate anytime throughout the year with multiple interventions from staff to ensure they do so.

**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:**

Personalization, Mastery, 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. For three of its first graduating classes, 100% of the graduates 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 it can get to know each student deeply, and so it 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, involve fieldwork, and culminate in an authentic project, product or performance.

**To learn more:**

View a Springpoint profile of Casco Bay High School [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:**

Personalization, Mastery, Youth Development, Project-based Learning

Parker Charter opened as a public school of choice for middle school and high school students in Devens, Massachusetts, and has been mastery-based from the start. Parker was founded on 10 principles, one of which reads in part: "The school's goals should be simple: that each student masters a limited number of essential skills and areas of knowledge." By design, the school affirms the aphorism "less is more," and is an example of what project-based, mastery-based learning and teaching can look like. (Parker's 10 principles are those shared by all members of the Coalition of Essential Schools.) Parker was designed to promote a cohesive cohort culture and to personalize and support student journeys to mastery-level work.

**What to look for:**

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 grade 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](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (978) 772-3293

School Address: 49 Antietam St, Devens, MA 01434

## [HALL-DALE MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL \(MAINE'S RSU2\)](#)

### Key Features:

Iteration Improvement, Personalization, Mastery, Partnerships, 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 have been: standards-based, teacher-designed curriculum assessment practices that support learning; learner-centered instructional strategies; the use and development of effective, learner-centered teaching strategies; monitoring learning and providing feedback; and continuous improvement. Their process for developing the structures to support their model has been to focus on curriculum and instruction, leadership, articulation agreements with higher education, and developing community learning partnerships.

### What to look for:

Using mastery-based practices, RSU2 distinguishes its model in several ways. In deciding what students need to master and how they progress to graduation, RSU2 has been particularly explicit about rigor. Additionally, they have been able to utilize their learning platform to make student progress along the expected proficiencies transparent to students and parents.

### To learn more:

View a Springpoint profile of RSU2 [here](#)

### To schedule a visit, contact:

School Phone Number: (207) 622-6351

School Address: 7 Reed Street Hallowell, ME 04347-3047

## [MAKING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS \(MC<sup>2</sup>\) CHARTER SCHOOL](#)

### Key Features:

Personalization, Mastery, Youth Development, Asynchronous Learning

Opened in Manchester, NH, Making Community Connections Charter (MC<sup>2</sup>) is a mastery-based high school with student agency at the center of its design. MC<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>2</sup>, 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 are tracked to 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 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<sup>2</sup>—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 out of

the bottom of the J and 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<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>2</sup> [here](#)

View a CompetencyWorks profile of MC<sup>2</sup> [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

Manchester Campus: (603) 935-7488 | 60 Rogers Street, Unit 203, Manchester, NH 03101

Monadnock Campus: (603) 283-0844 | 149 Emerald St, Suite UP3, Keene, NH 03431

## [MATCH HIGH SCHOOL](#)

**Key Features:**

Personalization, Mastery, Youth Development, Social Emotional Learning

Match High School is the upper school campus of Match Charter Public School in Boston. It serves 250 students in grades 9 through 12, 92% of whom are students of color. Students matriculate to Match High School from Match Middle School in Jamaica Plain. The high school continues the mission of "success in college and beyond for every student" through a focus on academics and character development.

**What to look for:**

Match High School has an extended school day, with at least two hours per day of individual or small group tutoring in addition to conventional class-based instruction. Match considers the number of students in AP classes as an important metric of real college readiness. For two years in a row, Match High School has had more African-American students pass the AP Calculus exam than any other high school in Massachusetts.

**To learn more:**

Read a New York Times article that mentions Match [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (617) 232-0300

School Address: 1001 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215

## [NEXT CHARTER SCHOOL](#)

**Key Features:**

Personalization, Mastery, Youth Development

Next Charter School was founded to meet the needs of students not fully served within a traditional high school educational program. It employs a system of instructional and assessment practices that values

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, regular exhibitions, and the flexibility for kids to engage in learning opportunities outside of school.

**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 Rd., Derry, NH 03038

## PHILADELPHIA

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### SCIENCE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

**Key Features:**

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

The Science Leadership Academy (SLA) is a partnership high school 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 is an established school with a diverse population. The school'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.

**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. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

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### [INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AT LANGLEY PARK](#)

#### Key Features:

Mission & Culture, English Language Learners, Student Supports & Transitions, Personalized Learning, Asynchronous Learning

The International High School at Langley Park is part of the [Internationals Network for Public Schools](#). 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 an interview with IHSLP principal Carlos Beato on Springpoint's blog [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

Email - Principal, Carlos Beato: [carlos.beato@pgcps.org](mailto:carlos.beato@pgcps.org)

School Address: 5150 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710

## MIDWEST

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### [CARPE DIEM](#) (Aiken Campus)

#### Key Features:

Mastery, Personalization, Youth Development, Iteration, Collective Strengths, Data

Carpe Diem Schools are tuition-free charter schools, educating middle and high school students using a proprietary blended-learning model of digital curriculum, plus high quality, personalized instruction and high expectations. 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 youth development approach and consistent use of data to inform and improve instruction. It is also worth noting the unique roles they have established for adults in the building.

**To learn more:**

View a video on Carpe Diem [here](#)

Read a blog post on Carpe Diem by JoEllen Lynch, Executive Director of Springpoint, [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (513) 363-6600

School Address: 5641 Belmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45224

**CORNERSTONE HEALTH + TECH HIGH SCHOOL**

**Key Features:**

Mastery, Personalization, Technology, STEM, Partnerships

Cornerstone Health + Technology High School works in partnership with industry experts like the Detroit Medical Center and Beaumont Hospital, along with technology leaders in the area, to combine the best of individualized instruction, blended learning, and real-world experiences. The school delivers a rigorous college-prep curriculum while ensuring relevance to current and future demands of career options in the health care and technology industries. Cornerstone Health + Technology High School students have the opportunity to earn college credits and explore career options with a lens on possibilities in health care and technology, all while still in high school.

**What to look for:**

The model combines online curriculum with 21st-century, small-group classroom instruction. This allows students to study at their own paces and achieve full mastery of each subject before moving on to the next level. Student progress is accessible by students and staff at any time, which allows for comparison of anticipated grades to actual grades so students can chart their growth at any time in a single, convenient virtual location.

**To learn more:**

View a video of Cornerstone [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (313) 486-4260

School Address: 17351 Southfield Fwy, Detroit, MI 48235



## GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM HIGH SCHOOL

### Key Features:

Personalization, Technology, Partnerships

As a Grand Rapids Public Schools Center of Innovation, the Grand Rapids Public Museum School will ultimately grow to serve grades 6 through 12. The Public Museum School is now located on the 4th floor of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The new setting includes the latest in classroom design and state-of-the-art technology that will help teachers and students alike adapt to the school's new approach to teaching and learning. The school has been designated as an [XQ Super School](#).

### What to look for:

The school's curriculum focuses on providing students with opportunities to explore their community, use design thinking to become creative problem solvers, and have exciting hands-on experiences. With the museum's focus on history, science, and culture, students benefit from a collection of over 250,000 artifacts and specimens that they get to see and touch every day.

### To learn more:

View a video on the Public Museum School [here](#)

Read an article that mentions the Public Museum School [here](#)

### To schedule a visit, contact:

School Phone Number: (616) 819-3600

School Address: 272 Pearl St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

## INTRINSIC SCHOOLS

### Key Features:

Personalization, Operations, Iteration, Collective Strengths, Technology, Data

Intrinsic is an open-enrollment, public charter school serving students in grades 7 through 12. The school blends technology with great teaching to provide every student a 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.

### What to look for:

Their new building is a strong example of how space and the academic model are thoughtfully aligned. Their backend platform design and data use is 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: [inquiries@intrinsicschools.org](mailto:inquiries@intrinsicschools.org)

School Address: 4540 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago, IL 60641

**[MC<sup>2</sup> STEM HIGH SCHOOL](#)**

**Key Features:**

Mastery, Personalization, Technology, STEM, Partnerships, Project-based Learning

Part of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, MC<sup>2</sup> STEM was created through a public-private partnership among a number of organizations, 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.

With a STEM emphasis, teachers cover all subjects and standards through integrated, transdisciplinary project-based learning. The grading system is based on mastery, meaning that every student is graded on understanding rather than seat time, 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 in rigorous capstone projects and mentorship programs with engineers from GE Lighting, or juniors and seniors stepping up to demanding internships at a variety of local businesses.

**To learn more:**

Read an article about MC<sup>2</sup> STEM [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

Schools' Phone Numbers:

9<sup>th</sup> Grade: (216) 858-1267

10<sup>th</sup> Grade: (216) 744-1512

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grades: (216) 838-8500

School Address: 601 Erieside Ave, Cleveland, OH 44114

**[MINNESOTA NEW COUNTRY SCHOOL](#)**

**Key Features:**

Mastery, Personalization, Project-based Learning, Youth Development

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 low teacher/student ratio to focus on

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.

**To learn more:**

View an article on MNCS [here](#)

View an article that mentions MNCS [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (507) 248-3353

School Address: 210 Main St., Henderson, MN 56044

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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### [ALLIANCE OUCHI-O'DONOVAN 6-12 COMPLEX](#)

**Key Features:**

Personalization, Technology, Iteration, Data

Alliance Ouchi-O'Donovan 6-12 Complex is a free, public charter school serving grades 9-12 that is authorized by the Los Angeles Unified School District, and is one of the pioneers of the blended learning movement. In 2013, Alliance Ouchi-O'Donovan adopted the [Blended Learning for Alliance School Transformation \(BLAST\)](#) education model, which provides each student with a laptop and uses a wide variety of technological tools to prepare them for success in college and future careers.

**What to look for:**

They have recently expanded and iterated on their original model, and they have the graduation rates to prove their thinking. Although not mastery-based, this is a great place to see lots of different tech products and approaches to data collection and subsequent action.

**More about them:**

Read an article about Alliance [here](#)

View a video on the Alliance model [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (323) 596-2290

School Address: 5356 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90043

## [AVESON GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY](#)

### Key Features:

Human Capital, Mastery, Personalization, Collective Strengths

Aveson (AGLA) is a tuition-free charter school that employs a very thorough mastery approach, while focusing on personalization and projects. The school serves students in grades 6 through 12. 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) 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](#)

### To schedule a visit, contact:

School Phone Number: (626) 797-1438

School Email: [admissions@aveson.org](mailto:admissions@aveson.org)

School Address: 575 West Altadena Drive, Altadena, CA 91001

## [DA VINCI SCHOOLS](#)

### Key Features:

Personalization, Project-based Learning, Partnerships

Da Vinci Schools are free, public, college-preparatory charter schools serving grades K-13, open to all students in California regardless of district boundaries. Authorized by the Wiseburn Unified School District, Da Vinci's three high schools—Da Vinci Communications, Da Vinci Design, and Da Vinci Science—serve as Wiseburn Unified's "home" high schools. RISE High, incubated at Da Vinci Schools, won the \$10 Million [XQ Super School](#) grant.

### What to look for:

Da Vinci Schools have a "learn by doing" project-based curriculum focused at the intersection of college-preparatory and real-world readiness. Their curriculum offers career pathway courses aligned to high-skilled, 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.

In 2017, Da Vinci's three high schools will move into a state-of-the-art new campus designed for 21st century learning.

**To learn more:**

View an article on Da Vinci Schools [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (310) 725-5800

School Address: 201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245

## [e<sup>3</sup> CIVIC HIGH](#)

**Key Features:**

Mastery, Personalization, Project-based Learning, Technology, Partnerships

The mission of e<sup>3</sup> Civic High is to prepare students for college, career and life-long learning through project-based instruction, cutting edge technology, expansive research facilities via its exclusive location within the San Diego Public Library, and active civic engagement in the downtown community. Students learn through a mixture of self-paced online instruction, teacher or student-led small-group instruction, direct instruction, and problem-based and project-based work. With a focus on preparation for college and career, e<sup>3</sup> offers career exploration courses, job shadowing, internships, early college coursework via San Diego City College, and career and technical courses in bio-medical engineering.

**What to look for:**

The San Diego Public Library is not only the home for e<sup>3</sup>, it is a co-educator. Students are expected to take full advantage of the learning environment and its resources: more than 1.2 million resources in its collection, city librarians as instructors for research, auditorium and special events penthouse, a Teen and Homework Center, art gallery, reading room, City Television, and IDEA lab. Real-world experiences include internships in downtown businesses and service-learning within the local community.

**To learn more:**

View an article on e<sup>3</sup> [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (619) 546-0000

School Address: 395 11th Avenue, 6th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

## [HIGH TECH HIGH](#)

**Key Features:**

Human Capital, Personalization, Collective Strengths, 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 approach, 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. The HTH organization also includes a Teacher Credentialing Program and the High Tech High Graduate School of Education, offering professional development opportunities serving national and international educators.

**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 Rd., San Diego, CA 92106

Tours and semester-based residencies can be reserved via their website [here](#)

**[THRIVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS](#)**

**Key Features:**

Personalization, Operations, Social Emotional Learning, Project-based Learning, English Learners

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, they personalize learning and engage learners through a three-tiered approach that integrates project-based, personalized, and social-emotional learning.

**What to look for:**

Thrive is a high quality PBL environment, with strong blended learning and student voice components. Because of the precise attention to personalized learning and commitment to students with diverse needs, this is a solid location to glean best practices in Special Ed and English Learners inclusion.

**To learn more:**

View a video on the Thrive model [here](#)

View a video about Thrive Public Schools [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (619) 839-9543

School Email: [info@thriveps.org](mailto:info@thriveps.org)

School Address: 4260 54<sup>th</sup> Street, San Diego, CA 92115

## USC HYBRID HIGH

### Key Features:

Personalization, Iteration, Operations, Human Capital

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. 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:

Instituting an overhaul of their original model, USC Hybrid High is a blended model but not quite mastery-based. The leadership is striving for it though, which will illuminate how and when to iterate. 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 EdSurge article on USC HHS [here](#)

### To schedule a visit, contact:

School Phone Number: (213) 929-1046

School Email: [info@uschybridhigh.org](mailto:info@uschybridhigh.org)

School Address: 350 S Figueroa St., Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90071

## VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

### Key Features:

Mastery, Personalization, Community Collaboration

Vista High serves nearly 2,500 students with a three-period block schedule in which students attend three of their six classes on alternating days. Each day also includes an extended learning period where students have an opportunity to attend tutorials, study halls, special courses and extracurricular activities. On most days, students also get a 20-minute period set aside for reading a book of their choice. The 45-acre campus includes a comprehensive library, career center, art gallery, culinary-arts kitchen, agriculture center, auto shop, 126-seat theater and a 7,000-seat artificial turf stadium.

In summer 2016, Vista High was named an [XQ: The Super School Project winner](#). Vista Unified School District and Digital Promise will redesign the school to create a "learning positioning system" that shows students where they are in their study and how to move forward. In their design process, they are hosting monthly community focus groups to get feedback from parents, students, teachers and other community members.

**What to look for:**

The school piloted a “Personalized Learning Academy” that started with 165 juniors. This program leverages individualized coursework and online curriculum where students progress at their own pace and work in small groups. The school plans to eventually expand this program to all grade levels. You can read more about the academy [here](#).

**To learn more:**

View a video on Vista [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (760) 726-5611

School Address: 1 Panther Way, Vista, CA 92084

## BAY AREA, CALIFORNIA

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### [ALPHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS: CINDY AVITIA HIGH SCHOOL](#)

**Key Features:**

Personalization, Iteration, 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.

**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 receive support on the class of their greatest need 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 Ave., San Jose, CA 95122



## DESIGN TECH HIGH SCHOOL

### Key Features:

Iteration, Personalization, Mastery, Operations

Design Tech High School, an innovative, free public high school authorized by the [San Mateo Union High School District](#), was founded by teachers and parents. Their 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 kids "innovation ready."

### What to look for:

Design 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 Design Tech High [here](#)

### To schedule a visit, contact:

School Phone Number: (650) 231-2701

School Email Address: [info@dtechhs.org](mailto:info@dtechhs.org)

School Address: 1800 Rollins Rd., Burlingame, CA 94010

## ENVISION EDUCATION

### Key Features:

Personalization, Youth Development, Project-based Learning, Community Partnerships

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 [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (510) 451-2415

School Email: [info@envisionschools.org](mailto:info@envisionschools.org)

School Address: 111 Myrtle Street, Suite 203, Oakland, CA 94607

**[LEADERSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS: HAYWARD](#)**

**Key Features:**

Personalization, Social-emotional Learning, Culture, Youth Development, Partnerships

LPS Hayward prepares all students to apply to, attend and successfully graduate from college. Through a rigorous academic program, students develop strong analytical and leadership skills to be effective thinkers in any discipline. 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 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. The school's college-going and growth-mindset culture 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 edtech development approach [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (510) 300-1340

School Email: [hayward@leadps.org](mailto:hayward@leadps.org)

School Address: 28000 Calaroga Avenue, Hayward CA 94545

**[NEW TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL NAPA](#)**

**Key Features:**

Mission & Culture, Partnerships, Youth Development, Project-based Learning

New Technology High School is focused on project-based learning and college readiness. Students are graded based on content, written communication (even in subjects like math), critical thinking, and work ethic. Students develop the resilience needed to succeed in a rapidly changing world. To that end, they learn in an innovative and professional environment fostered by the use of advanced learning methods and technology. Both staff and students understand the commitment necessary to implement a rigorous and relevant curriculum, in which technology, standards, and skill development are embedded.

**What to look for:**

This is a strong example of interdisciplinary project-based learning. It is also a good place to see student agency in action.

**To learn more:**

Read an article on New Tech [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:**

Human Capital, Personalization, Collective Strengths, Operations

Summit Public Schools is a charter management organization serving the Bay Area's diverse communities. Through seven schools serving close to 2,000 students, Summit is realizing its founders' decade old vision. Summit prepares its students for success in college, career and life, empowering them to become contributing members of society. The school does this by flipping the traditional adult-driven school model on its head and putting students at the center to create an environment that enables students to drive their own learning. One of SPS's schools, Summit Elevate in Oakland, has been designated as an [XQ Super School](#), and is set to open in fall 2018.

**What to look for:**

Summit Schools are small, personalized, empowering, and rigorous—the optimal sites to visit are the Everest Public High School in Redwood City and Summit Denali in Sunnyvale. There is a strong leadership pipeline, asynchronous learning and assessment, and their focus on the hallmark 36 cognitive skills applies to 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](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (650) 556-1110

School Email: [info@summitps.org](mailto:info@summitps.org)

School Address: 455 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94063

## WEST

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### DENVER SCHOOL OF INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

#### Key Features:

Technology, Collective Strengths, Iteration, Mastery, Personalization, Youth Development  
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.

#### To learn more:

Read a Huffington Post article on DSISD [here](#)

Read an article on DSISD [here](#)

#### To schedule a visit, contact:

School Phone Number: (720) 424-2000

School Address: 150 S. Pearl St., Denver, CO 80209

### JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SCHOOL

#### Key Features:

Self-Direction, Experiential Learning, Personalization, Youth Development, Student Supports

Jefferson County Open School (JCOS) provides a vibrant, viable alternative to conventional schooling. It features a pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 around five primary values: curiosity, responsibility, courage, personal best, and respect.

**To learn more:**

Watch a video on JCOS [here](#)

Read an article on JCOS [here](#)

**To schedule a visit, contact:**

School Phone Number: (303) 982-7045

School Email Address: [info@jeffcoopen.org](mailto:info@jeffcoopen.org)

School Address: 7655 W 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Lakewood, CO 80214

**[NEW VISTA HIGH SCHOOL](#)**

**Key Features:**

Student Voice and Choice, Personalization, Youth Development

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 into 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.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Boulder, CO 80302

**[DSST: GREEN VALLEY RANCH HIGH SCHOOL](#)**

**Key Features:**

School Culture, Personalization, Youth Development

Part of the DSST Public Schools Network across 8 campuses, DSST: Green Valley Ranch High School (DSST: GVR) is a deliberately integrated community that serves students from all walks of life. Their mission is to prepare all students for success in college and the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and the school's program 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