Learning Partners Program 2014-2015

Thank you for your interest in the Learning Partners Program!

You can find the Word version of the online application on the following pages of this document:

- Host School Application: On pages 2-4
- Partner School Application: On pages 5-7

Please note that you must apply online but may use this document to plan your responses.

Note: The application period will end on Friday, May 2, 2014. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and schools are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Learning Partner Triads will be finalized in June 2014. For questions about the program and/or the application process, email LearningPartners@schools.nyc.gov or sign up for an informational webinar on Thursday, April 10 or Tuesday, April 29.
Learning Partners Program 2014–2015
Host School Application

School Information

1. Principal name (first and last)
2. DBN
3. Preferred email address

Application Criteria

Please read the following application criteria and confirm that your school qualifies to apply to be a host school for the Learning Partners Program:

1. Host school principal meets at least one of the following criteria: □ Yes □ No
   a. Has at least five (5) years of experience in a leadership role at current school (e.g. as principal, assistant principal, coach, teacher leader); OR
   b. Has at least five (5) years total experience as a principal in a NYDOE school
2. School earned a rating of “proficient” or higher on its most recent Quality Review □ Yes □ No
3. School is not fully screened □ Yes □ No
4. School has strong practices to share in at least one of the sixteen learning focus areas □ Yes □ No
5. School team of principal and approximately four (4) staff members is: □ Yes □ No
   a. Eager to share promising practices with colleagues; AND
   b. Reflective and looking to further strengthen practices

□ Yes, my school qualifies to apply to be a host school in the 2014–2015 academic year.
□ No, my school does not qualify to apply to be a host school in the 2014-2015 academic year. Therefore, I will not be applying.

If you have any questions about the host school criteria, please contact us at LearningPartners@schools.nyc.gov.

Statement of Commitment

Please read the program commitment below and confirm that, if selected to be a host school, you and your team agree to fulfill this commitment.

From July 2014–June 2015, each host principal and his/her team of approximately four (4) staff members will dedicate about 10 hours per month total toward:

1. Engaging in summer goal-setting and planning with each of their two (2) partner schools and program facilitator
2. Planning and hosting five (5) full-day school visits to their school
3. Participating in three (3) half-day visits to each of their two (2) partner school (six half-day visits total)
4. Engaging in related learning activities
5. Working with program facilitator to document and share promising practices citywide
6. Providing periodic feedback about the program

□ Yes, I understand and agree to fulfill the commitment if selected to be a host school.
□ No, I am unable to fulfill the commitment in the 2014–2015 academic year. Therefore, I will not be applying.
Preferences

Please respond to the following questions to support the school matching process, should you be selected as a host school. Note that preferences will be taken into consideration but are not guaranteed.

1. On a scale of 1 to 4 (1=not at all; 4=very much), how much would you like to work with each of the following type of schools?
   a. **New Principal**: Principal has between two to four (2–4) years of experience running a NYCDOE school
   b. **Student Population**: Student population meets or is close to meeting at least one of the following criteria: ≥ 70% free or reduced lunch; OR ≥ 70% black or Hispanic; OR ≥ 20% SWD; OR ≥ 20% ELL; OR ≥ 20% chronically absent; OR other distinguishing characteristic (e.g. high % overage/uncredited, high % low incoming proficiency)
   c. **Ready for the Next Level**: Based on qualitative and/or quantitative data, school has identified a high-leverage area of focus in which to take its practice “from good to great” in order to meet school-identified goals

2. On a scale of 1 to 4 (1=not at all important; 4=very important), how important is it to you to be matched with schools that:
   a. Are geographically close
   b. Have a similar student population
   c. Are in your network
   d. Share your superintendent
   e. You already know or have worked with

   *If this is important, please encourage the school(s) that you have in mind to apply, and enter up to two (2) schools below:*
   - School #1 DBN:
   - School #2 DBN:

3. Select one to two (1–2) of the following learning focus areas that you would most like to support other schools in developing.

| □ | 1. Supporting **teacher growth** – making professional learning part of every teacher’s experience |
| □ | 2. Developing **teacher and assistant principal leadership** |
| □ | 3. Using the **inquiry process** to develop and monitor approaches to improving student outcomes |
| □ | 4. Addressing **gaps between where students are and the expectations of the Common Core** through curriculum alignment and/or targeted academic interventions |
| □ | 5. Supporting **English Language Learners** both in and out of the classroom |
| □ | 6. Supporting **students with disabilities** both in and out of the classroom |
| □ | 7. Providing **academic interventions** for struggling students |
| □ | 8. Strengthening instruction in a **specific content area** (e.g. mathematics, literacy, arts, science) |
| □ | 9. Fostering **student voice, ownership, and independence** |
| □ | 10. Building students’ **social-emotional development** |
| □ | 11. Creating **positive school culture** |
| □ | 12. Fostering **post-secondary readiness and retention** |
| □ | 13. Promoting **family and community engagement** |
| □ | 14. Building **external partnerships** to enhance student opportunity |
| □ | 15. Planning for **strategic use of resources** including time, staff, physical plant, and budget |
| □ | 16. Addressing historically **difficult-to-move school-based problems** |
## Writing Prompts

1. Why are you interested in being a host school for the Learning Partners Program? (250 words or less)

2. For each of the one to two (1–2) learning focus areas that you noted above, describe your school’s strong practices and provide evidence that these practices are having an impact on student learning. (500 words or less)

3. Describe a challenge that you and your school have faced either currently or in the past. What leadership qualities have helped you address the challenge? What steps have you taken to address it? (250 words or less)

4. If you are chosen as a host school, which three to four (3–4) staff members would you include in your program team to help plan and participate in intervisitations and other learning activities? Please list the name and role of each staff member and then explain: (250 words or less)
   a. Why you are selecting this team in particular.
   b. The structures already in place or that you would put in place to ensure this team has the capacity to engage in this work.
   c. How you would ensure that the rest of the school staff is aware of and involved in the program.

## Additional Comments

1. If you are not chosen as a host school, would you be interested in being a partner school?  □ Yes  □ No

2. Please provide any additional comments below.
Learning Partners Program 2014–2015
Partner School Application

School Information

1. Principal name (first and last)
2. DBN
3. Preferred email address

Application Criteria

Please read the following application criteria and confirm that your school qualifies to apply to be a partner school for the Learning Partners Program:

1. School team of principal and approximately four (4) staff members is eager to collaborate with colleagues, learn from strong practices, and reflect on and strengthen own practices: □ Yes □ No

2. School meets at least one (1) of the following criteria:
   a. New Principal: Principal has between two to four (2–4) years of experience running a NYCDOE school; OR
   b. Student Population: Student population meets or is close to meeting at least one of the following criteria: ≥ 70% free or reduced lunch; OR ≥ 70% black or Hispanic; OR ≥ 20% SWD; OR ≥ 20% ELL; OR ≥ 20% chronically absent; OR other distinguishing characteristic (e.g. high % overage/uncredited, high % low incoming proficiency); OR
   c. Ready for the Next Level: Based on qualitative and/or quantitative data, school has identified a high-leverage area of focus in which to take its practice “from good to great” in order to meet school-identified goals

□ Yes, my school qualifies to apply to be a partner school in the 2014–2015 academic year.
□ No, my school does not qualify to apply to be a partner school in the 2014-2015 academic year. Therefore, I will not be applying.

If you have any questions about the partner school criteria, please contact us at LearningPartners@schools.nyc.gov.

Statement of Commitment

Please read the program commitment below and confirm that, if selected to be a partner school, you and your team agree to fulfill this commitment.

From July 2014–June 2015, each partner principal and his/her team of approximately four (4) staff members will dedicate about 10 hours per month toward:

1. Engaging in summer goal-setting and planning with host school and program facilitator
2. Participating in five (5) full-day visits to host school
3. Inviting host school to visit their school at least three (3) times
4. Working with program facilitator to revise practices based on program learnings
5. Engaging in related learning activities
6. Providing periodic feedback about the program

□ Yes, I understand and agree to fulfill the commitment if selected to be a partner school.
□ No, I am unable to fulfill the commitment in the 2014-2015 academic year. Therefore, I will not be applying.
Preferences

Please respond to the following questions to support the school matching process, should you be selected as a partner school. Note that preferences will be taken into consideration but are not guaranteed.

1. On a scale of 1 to 4 (1=not at all important; 4=very important), how important is it to you to be matched with a school that:
   a. Is geographically close
   b. Has a similar student population
   c. Is in your network
   d. Shares your superintendent
   e. You already know or have worked with

   *If this is important, please encourage the school(s) that you have in mind to apply, and enter up to two (2) schools below:*
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2. Select one to two (1–2) of the following learning focus areas that you would most like to focus on during this program.

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### Writing Prompts

1. For each of the one to two (1–2) learning focus areas that you listed above, explain the challenges that your school is currently experiencing and what goals you would have for addressing these challenges through participation in this program. (500 words or less)

2. How have you previously leveraged the strong practices of other schools or leaders to strengthen your own practices? (250 words or less)

3. If you are chosen as a partner school, which three to four (3–4) staff members would you include in your program team to participate in intervisitations and other learning activities, and support you in integrating what you learn to strengthen practices back at your school? Please list the name and role of each staff member and then explain: (250 words or less)
   - a. Why you are selecting this team in particular.
   - b. The structures already in place or that you would put in place to ensure this team has the capacity to engage in this work.
   - c. How you would ensure that the rest of the school staff is aware of and involved in the program.

### Additional Comments

Please provide any additional comments below.