

# EXPANDED SCHOOLS

A New Way to Increase Kids' Learning Time & Opportunity



## The Promise of Expanded Schools

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

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 We lift the limits off the outdated school calendar.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



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

## Why Reinvent the School Day?

- » More than one-third of students in urban schools drop out, putting them on a path to a lifetime of low-wage, unstable jobs.
- » The U.S. has dropped from 1st to 16th in the world in college completion.
- » The current school day was designed for an age of factories and farms, not a knowledge economy.
- » Demands on students, teachers and principals keep growing but the school day stays the same.
- » Too many schools lack the time and resources for arts, recess or inquiry-driven projects that inspire a life-long love of learning.

## The Evidence Expanded Schools Work

Expanded Schools build on proven practices. Dozens of empirical studies from the past decade show the same results: more learning time, in the form of high-quality after-school and summer programs, leads to greater achievement, better school attendance and more enthusiastic learners. New research on the highest-performing charter schools finds additional learning time to be a critical element of their success.

TASC conducted a three-year pilot of expanded learning time in 10 New York City public schools.

- Students out-performed city and state peers in improving their math and English proficiency.
- Student attendance improved, on average, seven more days per year than in matched schools.
- 85% of teachers said learning improved.



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



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



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



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



**1:10 Art**  
Paint a Harlem streetscape in the style of Bearden

## » The Four Core Elements of Every Expanded School

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



# What's Different about ExpandED Schools?

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

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

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

## Can We Afford This?

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



### An ExpandED School Snapshot

When Principal Danika LaCroix was assigned to replace a failing Brooklyn elementary school with a new school, she vowed to give her students as rigorous and broad an education as kids get in more affluent neighborhoods. PS 636 re-opened with a learning day that was three hours longer, accomplished through a partnership with TASC and a strong community organization – University Settlement. The school divided the extra learning

time between intensive math and English and experiences chosen by kids and parents, including fencing and robotics. Today PS 636 is one of New York's most improved schools as measured by leaps in math and English proficiency. "We didn't just add a few more minutes of what teachers were already doing," Principal LaCroix said. "We reinvented from the ground up with a community vision and a team commitment to help every student find that spark."



**2:00 Science**  
Testing water properties



**3:30 Play**  
Rehearsal



**4:00 Capoeira**  
Brazilian Music and Movements



**4:45 Sports**  
Step team or soccer



**5:30 Homework**  
One-on-one assistance



## The ExpandED Schools National Leadership Team

The ExpandED Schools approach was developed and is supported by TASC (The After-School Corporation). TASC is a nonprofit organization with more than a decade of experience partnering schools with community organizations to support, educate and inspire all kids to succeed. We've helped 376,000 kids while helping New York City build an after-school system.

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

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



**The After-School Corporation**

1440 Broadway, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10018 • [www.tascorp.org](http://www.tascorp.org) • [info@tascorp.org](mailto:info@tascorp.org) • 646.943.8700