



Division of School Leadership









Spring 2025 Citywide Conference for School and District Leadership Teams

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 8:00am – 3:00pm

Manhattan Center for Science and Math High School


CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS





All workshops are identified by workshop subthemes in support of NYCPS systemwide priorities, using the corresponding symbols indicated below. Each workshop will be presented twice (in the morning and afternoon sessions) to enable participants to select 2 workshops to attend. Participants are encouraged to attend workshops that best meet the needs of their school and district communities.





	(1) All students learn to read well		(5) All districts and schools are more inclusive and responsive for parents and families, including having more families choose NYC Public Schools
	(2) All students are physically and emotionally safe		(6) Comprehensive Education Planning, Implementation, and Progress Monitoring
	(3) All students have a high-quality academic experience		(7) Innovative Technologies in Education
	(4) All students graduate college and career ready and have a strong plan and pathway to economic security		(8) Collaborating for Student Success





WORKSHOP TITLES AND DESCRIPTIONS






(Listed Alphabetically)




	<p>(5-B) Building Capacity Through Effective Leadership</p> <p>Capacity Building Through Effective Leadership</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Georgette Pezzolanti, Family Leadership Coordinator (FLC), Community School District 21</p> <p>Room: 111</p>
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	<p>(5-C) Building Effective Relationships with Your CCEC Liaison</p> <p>Hosted by current Education Council members, we will provide information about NYS law, a list of best practices on how SLT members and Superintendents can liaise with your Education Council, we will discuss what a good partnership can look like and do a quick review of how Education Council members can best support your school. This will be an interactive workshop that includes a live poll and role-play. A presentation will be shared after the workshop.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> NeQuan McLean, President, Education Council Consortium (ECC) & Camille Casaretti, Education Council Consortium</p> <p>Room: 113</p>
	<p>(1-E) Building Partnerships with Families for Literacy</p> <p>CPRL and the Division of School Leadership designed Spread the Word: A NYC Reads Family Partnership Toolkit, a customizable and translated resource to support schools in building and sustaining partnerships with families to help children grow as readers. This workshop will introduce the toolkit, provide participants with time to explore its resources (e.g., family communications, event plans, and more), and equip them to build custom plans to partner with families in NYC Reads in 2025-2026.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Samantha McCarty, Sandy Chen, & Carter Cooper, Center for Public Research and Leadership</p> <p>Room: 240</p>
	<p>(2-F) Building Positive School Culture: Exploring Restorative Practices in NYCPS</p> <p>This workshop will deepen your understanding of Restorative Practices in NYCPS through active engagement in a restorative circle together. Our workshop emphasizes how Restorative Practices contribute to a positive and healthy school culture and climate. We will gain practical restorative tools tailored for teachers and support staff to effectively engage with students.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Carlos Munoz, NYCPS Office of Safety and Youth Development</p> <p>Room: 263</p>
	<p>(6-A) Centering the Needs of Your School's ELLs: Developing an Effective Language Allocation Policy</p> <p>This session will focus on the purpose and development of Appendix I of the CEP, the Language Allocation Policy (LAP). During this session school and district leadership teams will be able to recognize how the Language Allocation Plan (LAP) serves as the strategic instructional plan for English language learners, review the guidance for its development, and identify the resources to help schools create and revise the LAP.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Anthony Pizzillo & Natale Mannino, NYCPS Division of Inclusive and Accessible Learning, Office of Multilingual Learners</p> <p>Room: 115</p>

	<p>(1-B) Craft your Story for Social Change! A Collage, Memoir, and Storytelling Workshop</p> <p>In this workshop, participants will learn from author and illustrator, Jonell Joshua, methods to approach craft and storytelling your lived experience for social change. Participants will use collage materials, journal prompts, and their memories to craft their stories and bring awareness to social issues happening in their communities and at the forefront of their concern. Participants will be provided with resources and prompts to teach their students about the impact of storytelling and empower students to craft their stories for social change.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Jonell Joshua, Author and Illustrator</p> <p>Room: 247</p>
	<p>(2-A) Disability and Discipline – Manifestation Determination Reviews (MDR)</p> <p>Students with disabilities are entitled to specific protections under the law as it relates to discipline. A Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) is one such protection that occurs after the assignment of certain suspensions. This training combines a focus on behavior supports and collaboration with families along with the legal requirements that come with an MDR.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Andie Corso & Stephanie Jemilo, NYCPS Division of Inclusive and Accessible Learning</p> <p>Room: 116</p>
	<p>(8-A) Elevating & Empowering SLT / DLT Voices!</p> <p>Do you want to be heard and empowered at your SLT/DLT? Come and learn how to elevate your voice and empower others on your leadership teams? In this workshop, we will discuss how to equip and engage SLT/DLT stakeholders by addressing the importance of all voices. The discussion will include Consensus Based Decision Making, Problem Solving, Communication, and Team Building using the Chancellor's Regulation A-655 and their bylaws.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Shirley Aubin, Sonia Rueda, & Randi Garay, PEP / NYC Solves, BRSEAC, Chairs of Several CPAC Committees</p> <p>Room: 128</p>
	<p>(2-B) From Reactive to Responsive: Cultivating Capacity for Sustainable Dialogue</p> <p>In today's climate, school and district leaders must navigate complex and often controversial conversations with clarity, care, and courage. This session offers strategies to build leadership capacity and sustainable systems for addressing individual and systemic challenges. Grounded in our District Equity Action Project (DEAP), we will model key practices that support leaders in creating safe, affirming, and responsive school environments. Participants will engage with research-based frameworks, reflective dialogue, and tools from the DEAP curriculum, designed to strengthen team collaboration, enhance communication, and foster lasting change across schools and districts.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Anna Jackman, Darnese Daniels, Dr. Lyntonia Gold, Dr. Malissa Mootoo, Dr. Gloria Rosario-Wallace, & Dr. Denise Williams, SPACE Team, Division of Equity, Inclusivity, and Belonging (DEIB)</p>

	Room: 160
	<p>(3-B) Implementing the Black Studies Curriculum: Leveraging Progress Monitoring and Data-Driven Decision-Making for Equity and Success</p> <p>This session will explore how the Black Studies Curriculum (BSC), combined with progress monitoring and data-driven decision-making, can improve student engagement, foster positive self-identity, and enhance academic and behavioral outcomes. Drawing on successful implementations in diverse districts and schools—such as the D-75 Black Studies Curriculum event, the Queens South Black Excellence event, and the Transatlantic Black Studies Think Tank (D-16)—participants will learn how culturally affirming education, coupled with equitable supports and instructional practices (MTSS), creates meaningful impact. Attendees will gain insights into integrating BSC into core instruction, tracking progress, family and community engagement, and adjusting strategies to promote inclusive learning environments.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Michelle Patterson, NYCPS Special Education Office, Division of Inclusive and Accessible Learning (DIAL)</p> <p>Room: 154</p>
	<p>(3-A) Increasing Access, Engagement, and Equity for All - Universal Design for Learning</p> <p>This session will explore how to make learning inclusive, accessible, and challenging for all students using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles and instructional and assistive technologies. Student case studies and examples will illustrate practices and tools for NYC Reads and NYC Solves.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Nona Fontnel, NYCPS Special Education Office Instructional Team, Division of Inclusive and Accessible Learning (DIAL)</p> <p>Room: 136</p>
	<p>(4-B) Investing Education: Building Long-term Wealth</p> <p>First Generation Investors teaches high school students financial literacy with a focus on investing. In this session, we will discuss the importance of teaching students about investing at a young age to set them up for future success. The session focuses on compound interest and the value of long-term investing.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Cole Mattox, Dylan Ingerman, & Charlie Ewig, First Generation Investors</p> <p>Room: 238</p>
	<p>(7-A) Live Translation & Digital Tools for Communication with Multilingual Families</p> <p>This session explores how educators can leverage live translation and digital tools, supported by Artificial Intelligence (AI) to bridge language barriers and foster stronger connections with multilingual families. Participants will discover practical strategies for real-time translation, inclusive communication, and family engagement, ensuring equitable access to information and resources for all students.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Dana Unger & Ben Sadoff, Made Manifest LLC</p> <p>Room: 124</p>

	<p>(2-D) Overview of School Health Services</p> <p>An overview of the various school health services, including compliance mandates and contact points.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Aimee Lichtenfeld, Division of Operations and Finance, Office of School Health</p> <p>Room: 248</p>
	<p>(1-C) Reaching Our Struggling Readers: It Takes the Entire Community!</p> <p>We know it takes an entire community to ensure that all our students are able to access literacy. At Literacy Academy Collective we work at the intersection of race, poverty and disability, making sure that those students who have the most barriers are able to read. Spend time with Naomi Peña, long time organizer, activist and aggravator, now the Director of Family Engagement at Literacy Academy Collective and learn who needs to be involved and what it really takes to reach ALL readers! LAC is a school support organization that opened the first in-district public school specifically designed to support students with dyslexia and other struggling readers in District 7 in the South Bronx. We are poised to open our new school in Central Brooklyn in fall 2025 and expand to a small network of schools with one in every borough over the next 5 years.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Naomi Peña & Professor Carolyn Strom, Literacy Academy Collective</p> <p>Room: 249</p>
	<p>(5-A) Reimagining the NYCPS Website: A Listening Session</p> <p>Join us for a collaborative brainstorming session to help us gather ideas for reimagining the NYCPS website. We'd like to hear about different enhancements, resources, or new content you'd like to see that could make the website even more helpful for our schools, students, families, and communities. We will also share upcoming opportunities where you can provide additional feedback and ideas about the NYCPS website--and more!</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> AnnMarie Dull, PhD., Kareen Atkinson, Jane Pook, & Emily Wight, NYCPS Division of Instructional and Information Technology (DIIT)</p> <p>Room: 126</p>
	<p>(2-E) RFA + LGBTQ Presentation for School and District Leadership Teams</p> <p>This presentation will cover Respect For All and LGBTQ Affirming policies, including bullying and harassment reporting procedures and intervention strategies.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Brendan Lang, NYCPS Office of Safety and Youth Development</p> <p>Room: 262</p>
	<p>(1-A) Scaling NYC Reads for Education Transformation Across Community School District One: Lessons Learned and Next Steps (AM SESSION ONLY)</p> <p>In this interactive session, presenters will share lessons learned from Community School District 1's efforts to scale NYC Reads to boost literacy across the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Participants will acquire a take home "scaling" toolkit that includes access to a series of videos, which tell in real-time the compelling story of NYC Reads' expansion across</p>

	<p>District 1 during the 2024-25 school year. NOTE: This workshop will only be offered during Workshop Session 1 (AM Session Only).</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Sarah Peterson & Verone Kennedy, NYCPS Communications Division, Office of Knowledge Management, & Carry Chan, Superintendent, Community School District 1</p> <p>Room: 162</p>
	<p>(2-C) Success & Wellness in El Barrio</p> <p>Come share some tea with District 4 and Success in Motion. Through this panel discussion, you will learn more about the district's intentional comprehensive approach aimed at fostering a thriving community by integrating wellness practices into the daily lives of students, staff, and families.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Dr. Kristy De La Cruz, Superintendent, Camille Forbes, Principal (P.S./M.S. 206M), Michelle Martinez, Principal (P.S./M.S. 007M), District Four Superintendency, & Kim King, Success in Motion</p> <p>Room: 163</p>
	<p>(1-D) The Fluency Development Lesson: How Students Read and Write to Reach Empire Heights!</p> <p>Shifts in literacy instruction impact on all educators regardless of grade-level and content area. Beginning with a clear understanding of the research on how students learn to read and write will provide educators with the necessary foundations from which to create a responsive classroom conducive to growing ALL students. Participants will discover how evidence-based practices like the Fluency Development Lesson not only foster fluency and comprehension but listening, speaking and writing skills for all students, including Emergent Bilinguals, in grades K-12.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Dr. Lynne Kulich, Renaissance Learning</p> <p>Room: 251</p>
	<p>(8-B) The Impact of Community Schools and My Brother's & Sister's Keeper on NYCPS</p> <p>This interactive workshop explores the transformative impact of Community Schools and the My Brother's Keeper/My Sister's Keeper Initiatives on student success, with a particular focus on equity, access, and opportunity for underserved populations. Participants will learn how Community Schools serve as hubs that integrate academics, health, and social services, fostering family and community engagement to improve educational outcomes. Additionally, the workshop will dive into the MBK Initiative, highlighting its mission to uplift boys and young men of color through mentorship, leadership development, and strategic supports. Attendees will engage in discussions, and best practices to better understand how these two powerful models work together to create inclusive, thriving educational environments. This session is ideal for educators, administrators, families, and community leaders who are committed to advancing equity and driving student achievement through collaborative, community-driven approaches.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> George Patterson, NYCPS Office of Community Schools</p>

	Room: 260
	<p>(4-A) Unlocking Opportunities with District 79/Adult Education</p> <p>The New York City Public Schools Adult Education Program provides instruction and other related services to students interested in achieving a High School Equivalent Diploma or certification in one of our Career and Technical Education Courses. Our schools are in all 5 boroughs and offer courses in the morning, afternoon, evening and on Saturdays. The Adult education program focuses and provides services for students 21 years and older.</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i> Annette Knox, Luckisha Amankwah, & Josaine Richards, District 79/Adult Education</p> <p>Room: 250</p>
	<p>(5-D) Unlocking the Potential: Enhancing Family-School Partnerships through the Dual Capacity Framework</p> <p>Dr. Shadae Harris will guide participants through an exploration of innovative strategies and tools designed to strengthen collaboration between families and schools, fostering a shared responsibility for student success. Workshop Objectives include Understanding the Dual Capacity Framework Version 2; Implementing Effective Family Engagement Practices; and Building Partnerships for Student Success.</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i> Dr. Shadae Harris, Karen L. Mapp & Associates</p> <p>Room: Library</p>