

SCHOOL ALLOCATION MEMORANDUM NO. 93.3, FY09

DATE: April 27, 2009

TO: **COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENTS, INTEGRATED SERVICE CENTERS
AND SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

FROM: George Raab- Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: **CAMPAIGN for MIDDLE SCHOOL SUCCESS –INQUIRY PARTNERHIP
PROGRAM**

The Campaign for Middle School Success (CMSS) is a multi-tiered program designed to support all New York City middle schools to assist them in accelerating student learning, creating a culture of success, engaging students through rigorous and relevant instruction, supporting the development of the whole adolescent, and valuing parents, caregivers and families and external stakeholders as partners.

There are three primary goals for this campaign:

1. Improve overall student achievement in NYC middle schools
2. Close the achievement gap between Black and Hispanic and White and Asian American middle school students
3. Improve middle school student engagement and social-emotional development

One component of the CMSS is the Inquiry Partnership program which seeks to foster collaboration and the transfer of effective practices among structurally similar schools to enhance professional learning and ultimately support principals in strengthening school culture and student performance. The program provides focused, structured time and supports for participating schools to engage in a cycle of analysis, observation, reflection, and planning in order to:

- > Strengthen school leaders' capacity for transformative change leadership
- > Advance professional learning around the NYCDOE Blueprint for Middle School Success and Principals' Leadership Competencies
- > Cultivate a culture of high expectations and knowledge sharing within and across participating schools, and ultimately to non-participating schools

Throughout the course of the inquiry partnership program, participating principals will engage in these core program components:

- > Customized lab sites developed by the anchor school principals around the professional learning needs of their inquiry partnership groups
- > A personalized learning curriculum focused on change leadership, organizational management and key elements of the Blueprint
- > Learning walks for school community members at all participating schools
- > A collaborative community knowledge base (Wiki) in the knowledge management system, ARIS

Selection Criteria

Inquiry partnerships consist of schools that share structurally similar characteristics like grade configuration, school size, and concentration of students entering at low proficiency. Within each inquiry partnership is an anchor school which has consistently outperformed structurally similar schools over the last three years when looking at comparisons between predicted and actual performance levels. Beyond school

characteristics and performance, geographical proximity to one another and SSO/network affiliation were also considered in inviting schools to participate.

Potential partnership groups were created from a list of all middle grade schools. First, schools were grouped according to the structural characteristics outlined above. Next, all potential groups were reviewed to identify at least one anchor school within each group. Then all potential groups were reviewed to identify subgroups of schools within the same SSO and, when possible, network and geographic proximity. All potential partnership groups that remained after examining these criteria were invited to participate in the program. Partnership groups were formed when at least one anchor school and two additional schools from the same group agreed to participate.

Four inquiry partnership groups have been formed through this program. In total, there are thirteen participating schools, of which four are anchor schools.

Allocation Methodology

All schools selected to participate in the Inquiry Partnership program receive a stipend to support per session, substitute teacher, and materials costs associated with the program. In addition, anchor schools were awarded an additional \$5000 grant to recognize the effort required on their part to participate and support the other schools in their inquiry partnership, in addition to their per session, substitute teacher, and materials allocations to support the development of their lab sites and learning walks.

One school, which met the defining criteria to be considered an anchor school, served as a development consultant for the lab site protocols, as well as a facilitator for participating anchor schools in supporting the development of their lab sites. This school is receiving per session allocation for the principal's consultancy and facilitation, as well as substitute and materials costs associated with the sample lab site the school provided for participating anchor school principals and their staff.

The list of participating schools receiving allocations for the Inquiry Partnership program is displayed below.

LOCATION	SCHOOL NAME	TOTAL ALLOCATION
01M301	Technology, Arts, and Sciences Studio	\$ 3,707
01M332	University Neighborhood Middle School	\$ 3,707
01M839	Tompkins Square Middle School	\$ 15,400
02M896	Greenwich Village	\$ 3,707
03M250	M.S. 250 West Side Collaborative Middle School	\$ 12,123
03M258	Community Action School - MS 258	\$ 15,400
09X325	Urban Science Academy	\$ 3,707
10X118	J.H.S. 118 William W. Niles	\$ 3,707
13K266	M.S. K266 - Park Place Community Middle School	\$ 15,400
13K301	Satellite East Middle School	\$ 3,578
14K577	Conselyea Preparatory School	\$ 15,265
15K821	Sunset Park Prep	\$ 3,707
20K030	I.S. 30 Mary White Ovington	\$ 3,578
22K381	I. S. 381	\$ 3,578
	TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$ 106,562

Funds should be scheduled in **“TL MS Planning Grant”** allocation category.

Gr:bf

Cc: Dr. Marcia V. Lyles Anita Cassity Arthur VanderVeen
 James Liebman Joanna Lack Lisa Dare
 Dr. Sabrina Hope King Veena Vasudevan Melissa Hamann