



# Bank Street Education Center School System Partnerships & Programs

Through its School System Partnerships & Programs (SSPP) work, the Bank Street Education Center collaborates with schools, school systems, and districts nationwide to influence positive learning outcomes for students and educators.

Our approach is grounded in Bank Street's commitment to strengths-based, learner-centered, and equitable educational practices. Working together with program partners, we create customized strategies that support system-wide change. By tapping into the longstanding expertise of Bank Street educators and leaders, we tailor our strategies to fit the distinct strengths, needs, and opportunities of program partners to help all students and educators thrive in school settings.

Through this work, we are building a growing evidence base to help inform local practice and address some of the nation's deepest organizational challenges currently hindering effective and equitable teaching and learning for all.

## Building Capacity Together

Through deep collaboration and structured feedback loops, we partner with school systems and districts to provide strategic guidance and implementation services that develop strong teaching practices at scale. Our work establishes a coherent throughline of teaching and learning that connects every layer of the school system to support increased teacher and student success.

Our programs range from in-depth collaborative district reviews and analysis of curricula, practices, and resources to professional development and ongoing coaching. In each program partnership, we pair tailored professional learning opportunities with strategic planning supports so investments in professional development lead to sustained improvements in classrooms and schools.



## In School System Partnerships & Programs, we...

- Value the impact of relationships and development on learning for students and adults.
- Apply a strengths-based approach to transform reflections on educator practice.
- Prioritize equity-mindedness as a lens to disrupt instructional, institutional, and socio-historical patterns of exclusionary practices and racism.
- Use the instructional core as a framework to talk about classroom interactions.
- Use the power of low-inference observation and recording to ground our beliefs in facts and limit judgment.

## Examples of School System Partnerships & Programs

**Yonkers Public Schools Network for School Improvement (YPS NSI):** SSPP partnered with ten Yonkers middle schools to use continuous improvement processes to collectively identify issues in, reflect on, and refine their practice as well as to interrogate and work on other root causes of disproportionate district-wide math outcomes. The network's goal is to significantly increase the number of Black, Latinx, and low-income Yonkers students who earn a high school diploma, enroll in a postsecondary institution, and are on track in their first year to earn a credential with labor-market value.

**New York Network:** SSPP brought together four urban school systems in New York State—Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, and Yonkers—to create a continuous learning network designed to strengthen teaching and student achievement. Working in partnership with each district, SSPP developed strategic plans addressing an area of challenge and then provided direct implementation and professional learning support to strengthen instructional work at scale.

**New York City Department of Education Middle School Quality Initiative (MSQI):** MSQI's leadership and coaching teams partnered with SSPP to explore opportunities to increase internal coherence (IC) across their program. After applying the IC Framework to refine and strengthen coaching initiatives in hard-to-move schools, they then moved on to identify the internal learning processes by which MSQI coaches acquire best practices and strategies to support this learning.

**New Haven:** In New Haven, an initial pre-K project with Bank Street in 2015 led to the Education Center's collaboration on the New Haven Children's Ideal Learning District (NHChILD), an initiative that has brought together stakeholders across the city to increase access and quality of care and education for all children ages 0-8. In 2019, NHChILD secured funding to become its own non-profit charged with working alongside public and private agencies to launch a set of collective actions that will radically change early learning in the city.

**Newark Public Schools:** After conducting a collaborative early childhood review with visits to over 40 classrooms and interviewing stakeholders from across the district and community, SSPP developed and is now leading school leader coaching and professional learning. This work is coupled with aligned strategic visioning for early childhood instruction, which will inform the district's approach moving forward.

**New York City Department of Education Pre-K Explore:** SSPP provides professional development and coaching to support pre-K teachers and leaders citywide in implementing the developmentally appropriate Building Blocks math curriculum. Since 2015, the program has reached over 54,000 4-year-olds, and coaches report that participating students' math language use almost triples from the beginning to the end of the academic year.

**New York City Department of Education Harlem Bto8:** SSPP is partnering with the District 5 school communities of P.S. 36 and P.S. 125 to enact high-quality, developmentally appropriate instructional approaches in grades pre-K-3 and model these approaches for the district at large. The team is also engaging early childhood stakeholders in Harlem including educators, parents, family caregivers, community leaders, and children. This collaboration is driving the creation of a community-driven model for supporting students from birth to age 8.

**New York City Department of Education Family Child Care Pilot:** NYCDOE's Family Child Care team and SSPP are partnering to provide professional learning opportunities and support for the inclusion of 3-K services in home-based family child care (FCC) programs. The goal of the pilot is to promote continuous and responsive early care and education from birth to age four in mixed-age FCC settings.