



THE Gateway SCHOOL

**Proposal
Head of School Search
The Gateway School**

New York, New York

Start Date: July 1, 2026



Overview

Once in a rare while you come across a hidden gem of an independent school. Located on the Upper West Side of New York City, near Lincoln Center, The Gateway School is an extraordinary place. Gateway's industry-recognized academic program is skillfully scaffolded, efficiently taught and tailored with explicit instruction and feedback throughout the day. When kids who struggle with language-based learning differences and ADHD can understand teacher expectations and access the material, they build self-esteem and self-confidence and become voracious learners. Gateway's program has transformed the lives of its students and their families by substantially improving academic and social emotional trajectories and outcomes.

Gateway is small in size, educating roughly 160 students ages 5-14. The distinct size and approach ensure that Gateway meets every one of their students where they are as learners and as humans. Gateway is an oasis and gift to sensory-sensitive children and is much more than a school for its students and families. It is a warm community of learners, educators, practitioners, and caregivers who all invest in the long-term, holistic success of their students. In short, Gateway is a rarity amid the hustle bustle of one of the most overwhelming cities in the world. This is a school that truly puts students first.

Founded 60 years ago, Gateway is a pioneer and leader in the field of special education in New York City. The mission of the school from day one was—and remains—to teach bright children who have trouble learning how to learn, to educate their families and the professional community about the nature of learning differences and to develop and disseminate effective instructional approaches and programs for students with language-based learning disabilities. Over the years, Gateway has remained deliberately small to best provide each



student with a personalized path of education. Gateway teachers deliver the gift of language to their students. By accessing language, Gateway students are given the keys to access everything they need inside and outside the classroom and prepare them to realize and reach their potential which often leads to success in mainstream schools.

Mission

The Gateway School is a K-8 independent day school that transforms the lives of bright students with language-based learning differences and attention deficits.

At Gateway, students become skilled, strategic learners and confident self-advocates. Relying on direct, multisensory instruction and guided by an integrated curriculum, expert faculty teach students the language, literacy, and critical thinking skills that are the foundations for success in mainstream educational settings and beyond.

Gateway believes a close relationship between the school and parents provides essential support as students grow and seek to realize their potential. In small classes, and as members of a diverse and inclusive community, Gateway students experience academic and social success, recognize their strengths and are empowered to become independent learners.

Head of School Position Statement

Program

The Gateway School's academic program is its core strength and is designed to achieve its mission to develop skilled, strategic learners. Gateway's intentional teaching, consistency of instruction and expectation across subjects and classes make it an ideal program for kids who struggle in traditional classroom settings. Gateway students have consistency of expectations across every subject from notetaking to writing and have consistency of organization, routine, language and scaffolds. Students are able to learn the skills and strategies that are necessary for achieving their potential, develop the confidence to recognize their success, gain insight for how they learn and become successful self-advocates.

Gateway students have language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia, expressive and receptive language delays, reading, and writing difficulties, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and/or executive functioning disorder. In classes with a low student teacher ratio, faculty and specialists pay close attention to how each child learns and individualize their instruction accordingly. Gateway's integrated curriculum weaves together skills, strategies, and content. Instruction is direct, explicit, sequential, and multisensory as validated by research. As teachers guide students to identify their strengths and take pride in their accomplishments, Gateway students become confident self-advocates.

The Gateway School is all about integration of reading, writing and language strategies across all subjects. Students develop competency in the use of language to comprehend, to think clearly and logically, and to be effective communicators, whether speaking, reading, or writing. Through an ongoing professional development program, teachers are taught how to use language as they

teach, how disruptions or delays in the development of students' language abilities impact on their thinking and learning, and how to integrate language instruction into all the traditional curriculum areas of language arts, math, science, social studies and more. In addition to these, students have specified time dedicated to occupational therapy and speech/language therapy.

Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are all emphasized and taught through a multisensory, direct, and explicit instructional methodology across all subjects. Gateway's reading program is Orton Gillingham-based and addresses student awareness in decoding, handwriting, spelling, accurate word, recognition, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. Gateway's math program is based on Singapore math and has been modified and adapted over many years for students with language-based learning disabilities, incorporating all the functional language skills they learn every day.

For more detail on Gateway's exciting academic program, you will find it here: <https://www.gatewayschool.org/the-gateway-program/educational-philosophy/academic-overview>



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Challenges and Opportunities

The future Head of School for Gateway will have the amazing opportunity to usher in the new era of the school. The community is ready for a forward-thinking leader who can look into the future while honoring the history and culture of the school. This is an outstanding opportunity for a leader excited to embrace and engage in relationships that make up this very special school. The Gateway ethos is strong, infectious, and in search of leadership that can harness the tremendous energy of the community.

Like all schools, Gateway faces some obstacles. It will be important for the next head to deeply understand these challenges, prioritize them, and address them in ways to connect with the many positive aspects of the school's culture.

The next Head of Gateway will appreciate the strength of the school and embrace the exciting opportunities and challenges ahead. They are:

- **Managing enrollment.** Lead and assist the school in creating a very strategic and effective enrollment operational plan. Be visible throughout the entire tri-state area, make connections and build alliances with members of very successful local organizations. Bring an end to the best kept "secret" or "hidden gem" in New York City.
- **Recruiting.** Build on the exceptional faculty of Gateway and continue to ensure Gateway's ability to recruit and retain high-quality faculty in an increasingly demanding and competitive market. In addition, careful thought and planning needs to be built around faculty and staff compensation.

Strengths of the School

- Education for the whole child
- Faculty and staff who care deeply about their students
- Small class sizes with a low student-teacher ratio
- Personalized path of education
- Developing student self-esteem and self-confidence
- Careful attention to social skills throughout the entire school
- Parents regard the program and curriculum as world class
- Close student-teacher relationships
- Fully integrated language development and literacy instruction
- Incredible math curriculum
- A strong, joyful and diverse educational community
- Professional coach for every teacher for each class
- Social/emotional learning is a core component of the entire Gateway educational program

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- **Fundraising.** Effectively fundraise to keep growing capital reserves and endowment to ensure the continued financial health of the school as it makes decisions around growth and capital projects.
- **Marketing.** Build and execute an urgently needed strategic marketing plan that utilizes social media and other digital marketing opportunities to significantly increase the visibility of the school throughout special education organizations, families and referral sources throughout the tri-state area. Take advantage of a solid academic brand in need of a wider audience!
- **Deliver inspired communication.** Be a visible presence. Bring warmth and a sense of humor to the important work of the school. Build vibrant networks and relationships with parents, both current and past, students, faculty, staff and strategic contacts throughout New York City.
- **Advocate for positive faculty and staff morale.** Delegate responsibilities appropriately and build effective and

collaborative teams. Invite input and robust discussion, but also demonstrate decisiveness and leadership. Ensure the policies and procedures of the school are handled consistently. Bring the entire community together: the lower school, the middle school, administrators, faculty and parents.

- **Create a shared vision.** Work with the outstanding team of Board members, administrators, and faculty to create an exciting vision for Gateway. Then go forth and make this become a reality. This can be a very exciting time for the school.
- **Establish a new strategic plan within the next 24 months.** This will become a high priority for the next Head of School. A significant aspect of the planning process must be to work with the Board to clearly identify, recruit and retain the best students that Gateway can serve while maintaining the right balance of mission-appropriate students in the school.
- **Engage with the New York City Department of Education.** Monitor the New York State Department of Education's constantly evolving approach to special education, particularly around funding. Like most independent special education schools in New York City, nearly all families of this student population seek state funds to reimburse and/or provide critical tuition assistance. Gateway is a very expensive, but exceptionally rewarding, proposition and most parents need some degree of financial support from the state to attend the school. It will be vitally important for the next Head of Gateway to thoroughly understand this process to help support these families.



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Qualifications

The next head of Gateway school will need poise, patience, confidence, energy and wisdom to effectively balance the demands associated with this exciting leadership opportunity. A successful candidate must be able to demonstrate the following talents, skills, attributes, values and experiences:

- Excellent listener and inspiring communicator in writing, speaking, and interpersonal relationships
- Excellent recruiter of faculty, administrators, and staff
- Strong familiarity with and passion for special education
- Visible leader with a very high EQ
- Visionary and strategic thinker who embraces innovation
- A collaborative leader working with others regarding best practices to ensure that Gateway remains a regional leader in special education
- Fundraiser with passion and focus
- A firm but fair decision maker
- Effective relationship builder who leads by genuinely knowing and caring about students, faculty and families

To Apply

The Gateway School has retained Resource Group 175 to support the search for its next Head of School. To apply, interested candidates must provide a cover letter, resume, and personal statement. Candidates may submit materials online at: <https://rg175.com/candidate/signup>

Application deadline: July 25, 2025

Start date: July 1, 2026

For inquires or if you would like to nominate a candidate for this position, please contact John Farber at jfarber@rg175.com