



**8 SCHOOLS.
1 FAMILY.**



**Explore
Schools**

**Candidate Resources
2020-2021**



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide students with the academic skills and critical thinking abilities they need to succeed in a college-preparatory high school and beyond.



As an organization, we acknowledge the detrimental impact of racism and systems of oppression. We envision a pathway to equity that features excellent curriculum and instruction in response to the opportunity gap—providing our scholars with access and opportunities to succeed. We commit to reflect individually on the roles we play within systems of oppression; and we channel our individual talents and cultural sensitivity to help our scholars and local community thrive.



OUR VALUES

Our operating values guide how we partner with community members in pursuit of our mission.

- We keep children at the center of our work.
- We engage in necessary conversations.
- We are flexible and reflective.
- We make things happen together.
- We demonstrate professional integrity.



“Critical thinking is valued here at Explore Schools. I am empowered as a school leader to make intimate decisions for my school, based on the needs of my school community with a team that is committed to reflection, feedback, and growth. It’s extremely rewarding to work with a team that is invested in strong learning partnerships with the families and the scholars we serve.”

LaKiesha George
Principal, Exceed Lower



**See our mission, beliefs,
and values in action!**



@explorecharterschools



Explore Schools



Explore Schools

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING & STUDENT CULTURE

We educate our students through a culturally responsive lens with students being equal and active participants in their own learning and development.

Our culturally responsive approach provides ample opportunities for students to exercise their voice and leadership to ensure that their learning is meaningful. We teach transferable skills that will enhance their performance across content classes, and incorporate their outside of school selves into the classroom.

We view families as partners, and through honest open communication, we work together as a team to meet the needs of and empower our students.



TRAUMA-INFORMED TEACHING

We've prioritized educating all teachers and staff about various ways trauma manifests in students, and how someone who has experienced trauma may be triggered. It is an expectation that our teachers approach instruction with a trauma-informed mindset.

LEARN MORE

- **Our curriculum:** Our recruiters or school leaders will be able to share more information about our curriculum during the interview process.

Scan the below QR code using your phone to visit our website for more on:

- **Our approach to culturally responsive teaching and student culture**
- **Trauma-informed teaching**
- **Our beliefs**
- **Our results**



“ I was really drawn to the people at Explore and I was also drawn to the idea that we can build great schools that uses a model different from the punitive, no excuses model that you see in so many charter schools. I was also drawn to the autonomy that Explore affords everybody in their roles - there are high expectations and curriculums, but leaders and teachers really have the autonomy to be creative. ”

Maureen Ferry
Principal, Exceed Upper



QUICK FACTS ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS

Opened in 2002



EXPLORE LOWER, grades K-5 (358 students)

EXPLORE UPPER, grades 6-8 (183 students)

Address: 655 Parkside Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11226

Hours of operation: 7:30am - 4:30pm

Lefferts Garden/Prospect Heights/Flatbush

Opened in 2009



EMPOWER LOWER, grades K-5, (322 students)

EMPOWER UPPER, grades 6-8 (171 students)

188 Rochester Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11213

Hours of operation: 7:30am - 4:30pm

Crown Heights

Opened in 2011



EXCEL LOWER, grades K-4, (291 students)

1077 Remsen Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11236

EXCEL UPPER, grades 5-8 (262 students)

956 E 82nd St, Brooklyn, NY 11236

Hours of operation:

Lower: 7:20am - 4:30pm

Upper: 8:00am - 4:30pm

Canarsie

Opened in 2012



EXCEED LOWER, grades K-5, (332 students)

443 St Marks Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11238

EXCEED UPPER, grades 5-8 (172 students)

46 McKeever Place Brooklyn, NY 11225

Hours of operation: 7:20am - 4:30pm

Crown Heights



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Explore Schools



Explore Schools



SERVING ALL STUDENTS

WHAT DOES SPECIAL POPULATIONS LOOK LIKE AT EXPLORE SCHOOLS?

Nearly 20% of our students receive special education services. We believe that Special Education is not a child, a place, or label. Rather, special education is specially designed instruction and supports to ensure that every student receives empowering support services and accommodations to meet their academic goals.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ELL SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Explore Schools provides English as a New Language (ENL) services to all students who are identified through the typical statewide M/ ELL universal identification process as well as an internal identification process.
- In both cases, students receive ENL services based on their proficiency level, as prescribed by city regulations and as measured by the WIDA.
- A combination of ICT and SETSS services is the most common IEP program at our network.
- Counseling is also provided at each of our eight schools by full-time social workers and counselors. Additionally, all of our schools offer Related Services such as Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Hearing Education Services, and placement Paraprofessionals for qualifying students.
- 3 of our campuses have 12:1:1 classes to provide a smaller student to teacher ratio to our highest need scholars.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **We value school and network-level special populations leaders:**
 - **Senior Director of Special Populations (network level)** - Primarily responsible for providing our Special Populations Coordinators (SPCs) with guidance on compliance, effective pedagogy, and charged with the professional development of school-based special populations staff.
 - **School Based Special Populations Leaders (Coordinators/Directors)** - Coordinate all services and instruction for all students served through our special populations programming, including students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), students who are classified as English Language Learners (ELLs), and students who may benefit from additional interventions and supports.
- **We offer a range of settings and services to support the needs and learning of all students:**
 - English as a New Language (ENL) instruction by ENL Learning Specialists
 - Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS) in small groups by Learning Specialists
 - Integrated Co-teaching (ICT) classes with a special education teacher and general education teacher
 - 12:1:1 classes taught by a special education teacher and assistant teacher
 - Small group instruction periods to provide intervention in reading and math
- **How do special populations educators collaborate with general education teachers?**
 - There are many opportunities for our special populations educators to collaborate with general education teachers to align on the fundamentals of strong instruction, analyze and discuss student progress data, and plan instruction.
 - These opportunities include: professional development sessions throughout the year, regular Response to Intervention (RTI) meetings, Professional Learning Community (PLCs) meetings and common prep periods.