



March/April Dates

March 20-23

Deadline: Review the 2008-09 BEDS Day Enrollment Report and ELA Tested/Not Tested Report

Wed., March 25

Deadline: Select Supervisor for Summer School

Wed., March 25, 4:30-7:30

MSLP Partners Coaching – 2 at IN-TECH Academy MS/HS 368

Wed., April 1, 11:00-4:00

Network Meeting at MS 390

Wed., April 7, 4:30-6:00

AED PSO Informational Session at MS 80

Friday, April 20

Young Adolescent Dev. Monthly Meeting at MS 390.

Tues., April 21, 4:30-6:00

AED PSO Informational Session at AED

Wed., April 22, 4:30-7:30

MSLP Partners Coaching - 3 at IN-TECH Academy MS/HS 368

Monday, April 27, 4:00-6:00

Forum on Overage Middle School Students at AED

Thursday, April 29

Site Visit to Holmes Middle School in Fairfax, VA

On the Horizon

Monday, May 4

College Readiness in the Middle Grades

AED

100 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10011

Phone: 212-367-4594

E-mail: info@middlestart.org

www.middlestart.org

Dear AED PSO School Leaders!

I would like to officially welcome our three new schools to our network. They include:

- **Soundview Academy for Culture and Scholarship, District 8, William Frackelton - School Leader;**
- **West Prep Academy, District 3, Emily Noto - School Leader; and**
- **Science and Math Middle School, District 18. Ingrid Thomas-Clark, School Leader.**

Each school will open this fall with a sixth grade and grow to approximately 360 students. We are looking forward to working together to support the success of these new middle schools.

AED is pleased to report that in recognition of the difficult financial times we have requested a 5% reduction in our cost for next year from the DOE. The decrease in cost will not result in a reduction in support service. On a final note we have attached a recent Educational Leadership article by Linda Darling Hammond and Nicole Richardson that discusses what research affirms about creating high impact professional development. We look forward to seeing everyone at the April 1st network meeting at MS 390.

In Partnership,
Calvin and the AED PSO Team

SAF News

Learning Environment Survey Updates

This week

Teacher surveys have arrived in all schools and should be distributed by now. The survey deadline is **April 24**. Teachers should either submit surveys online or mail in the completed paper survey. Teachers who have lost their surveys should call the survey hotline at (800) 690-8603 to retrieve a replacement serial ID to complete the online survey.

- **Student surveys:** Some student surveys have been already shipped. All student surveys will arrive by the end of the month.
- **Pilot Survey for Paraprofessionals and Parent Coordinators.** This week, your survey coordinator will receive information on the paraprofessional online survey. The survey will only be available online, and all parent coordinators and UFT paraprofessionals will be eligible to participate. Later this week, your survey coordinator will receive detailed information about how to distribute anonymous bar codes to your parent coordinator and paraprofessionals.

Only schools will be able to view aggregated paraprofessional and parent coordinator survey responses, and results will not be factored into the survey reports or your Progress Report. The deadline for paraprofessionals and parent coordinators to complete the survey is **April 24**.

Response Rate Updates. Last Thursday, your survey coordinator received the first response rate update for your school. We will be providing weekly updates to your survey coordinator through April 24. Each week, we will highlight a Survey School of the Week that has especially high response rates so far this year or has improved since last year. This week's school is Esperanza Preparatory Academy in Manhattan, led by Alex Estrella, where already 26% of parents and 50% of teachers have completed surveys online.

In addition, many other schools are on track to qualify for the Green School Award, which will be given to school where the online response rate for the total school population of parents is at least 20%, teachers at least 61%, and students at least 78%. For questions about this year's survey, contact the survey team at (212)-374-6646 or surveys@schools.nyc.gov.

Updates on NCLB/SED Accountability New Deadlines

- **The 2008-09 BEDS Day Enrollment Report:** You will need to review this report by **March 20**, when it will be disabled so the state can upload ELA scores into nySTART.
- **The Grades 3-8 ELA Tested/Not Tested Report:** This report will be disabled on **March 23** so the state can upload ELA scores into nySTART. **Please review the report prior to that date.**
- **Social Studies Grade 8 and Grades 3-8 Mathematics Tested/Not Tested Report:** This report will be updated each Tuesday and indicates the students whom the state has listed on register as of Tuesday of the previous week.

Elementary and middle schools are encouraged to compare the BEDS Day Enrollment Report with the Grades 3-8 ELA Tested/Not Tested Report, since schools will be held accountable for the performance of students who were enrolled on BEDS day and appear on the tested/not tested report.

Distribution of Main Round High School Admissions Letters

Deadline: March 25

Main round high school admissions letters for 8th grade students will be available for pickup **Wednesday, March 25** between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Middle schools should arrange to pick up their letters. You can find the pickup location for your district [on the Principals' Portal](#). Letters for 9th grade students at grades 9-12 high schools will be delivered directly to schools beginning March 25. Grades 6-12 high schools need to pick up letters for their 9th grade students. Translated versions of the letters will be available on HSAPS.

For additional information, please e-mail HS_Enrollment@schools.nyc.gov or call the Office of Student Enrollment at (212) 374-2363.

Select Supervisor for Summer School (Co-Affiliating Schools)

Deadline: March 25

For summer school 2009, principals of schools co-affiliating to summer elementary and middle school sites will collaborate to select the supervisor assigned to the summer school site. Affiliating principals should submit the name of the assistant principal they have selected by the close of business on **Wednesday, March 25**.

Guidelines on selecting non-mandated assistant principals, along with other updates on summer school 2009, are available in the second installment of the Summer School 2009 Fact Sheet, which is available on the [Summer School page on the Principals' Portal](#).

The list of schools affiliating to a summer school site will be available on that page beginning March 18 (you will also be able to access it via the "Spotlight" section of the Principals' Portal).

For additional information, please contact your SSO summer school liaison (contact information is available on the Principals' Portal).

Core Curriculum Showcase

March 23-24

On **March 23 and 24**, the DOE will host its annual Core Curriculum Showcase, featuring materials and components from the various core curriculum programs. This is an opportunity for you and your staff to explore the materials before placing your core curriculum order in April. The showcase will be held at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway). Pre-registration is required and is now open at www.learningtimes.net/curriculumshowcase.

For additional information about the showcase, visit <http://intranet.nycboe.net/TeachingLearning/Curriculum/>.

Periodic Assessments (Reminders)

- Acuity 3-8 Math & ELA ITA Window 2.** The second instructionally targeted assessment (ITA) administration window for grades 3-8 is March 30- April 6. For more information on this upcoming administration, please read the pre-administration memo at <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/ResourcesforEducators/PeriodicAssessments>. Materials for this administration will begin arriving March 20. Please check your materials upon arrival. If you need additional materials, please contact the Acuity Helpdesk at (866) NYC-6550 and press 1 for assistance. The last day for ordering additional materials for this administration is April 2.
- English Language Learners Periodic Assessments (Grades 3-12).** The second administration window for the English Language Learner (ELL) periodic assessments is **March 23-30**. Materials will be delivered to schools that opted into the assessment by **March 19**. If your school did not opt in but you would like to administer the assessment, please contact your assessment implementation director. Please see the [ELL March Administration Memo](#) for more details regarding the administration of this assessment.
- Acuity Item Authoring.** Starting in April, all educators will have access to a new item authoring tool in Acuity. This new resource will allow you to write and publish your own items directly into a shared New York City educator-authored item bank. You can use the items from this bank to create your own customized assessments in Acuity. To be able to author their own items before April, educators need to attend the "Item Authoring Pilot" professional development session. To sign up for a live webinar or view a recorded version, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/Accountability/ResourcesforEducators/PeriodicAssessments/Periodic+Assessment+Professional+Development.htm>.

Complete Annual Inventory Deadline: April 15

If you have not already done so, please perform

your annual physical inventory of all equipment, textbooks, computer software, and educational and administrative supplies stored in large quantities by **April 15**. Please also update your inventory records by this date. You can also discard or transfer obsolete equipment as part of this process.

When you have completed your inventory, please electronically forward a signed "Annual Inventory Statement" (see Exhibit A in Section 5.1 of the [Standard Operating Procedures chapter on "Inventory"](#)) to your ISC within 30 days.

Progress Report Feedback

If you couldn't attend one of the sessions on the Progress Reports but would like to provide feedback, please e-mail directly at PR_Support@schools.nyc.gov or contact your SAF or Network Leader.

Grants, Workshops, Events

Closing the Achievement Gap Forums March 24, 5:00-7:30

Indicators to Assess our Work in Closing the Achievement Gap: A Conversation with Dr. Robert Balfanz, Johns Hopkins University.
When: Tuesday, March 24, 5:00-7:30 p.m.
Where: St. John's University Manhattan Campus, Auditorium (101 Murray Street)
Registration: <http://tinyurl.com/Balfanz>

SSO Selection: AED PSO Presentations April

Meet the Middle Grades PSO: An informational session/meet & greet to learn more about the AED PSO:

- ▶ April 7th, 4:30 – 6:00 pm**
 MS 80, 149 E. Mosholu Parkway, Bronx, NY
 (dinner provided)
- ▶ April 21st, 4:30 – 6:00 pm**
 AED, 100 5th Avenue, New York, NY
 (dinner provided)

Meditations on a Middle School PSO: A webinar to learn more about the AED PSO:

- ▶ April 6th, 4:00 – 5:00 pm**
- ▶ April 26th, 4:00 – 5:00 pm**

To register for either event:

Contact Aurelia Enache at 212-367-4575 or aenache@aed.org

Adolescent Literacy Forums

April 22, May 20

Middle school educators are invited to attend the following events in the DOE's Adolescent Literacy series:

Addressing the Needs of Middle School Learners with Dr. Dorothy Strickland:

- ▶ April 22, 4:00-7:00 pm
Scholastic Headquarters (557 Broadway)
Protraxx Activity Code: 051-09-009-040

Increasing Student Engagement in Reading and Writing with Isoke Nia:

- ▶ May 20, 4:00-7:00 pm
Location TBD
Protraxx Activity Code: 051-09-009-041

Students Can Apply for Middle School Film Festival

Deadline: April 22

The 2009 New York City Middle School Film Festival invites seventh and eighth graders of all levels, interests, and backgrounds to share their personal stories and win a chance to attend a two-week summer film camp with the New York Film Academy, make their own short films, and have their films showcased at screenings this fall. Hundreds of film production scholarships will be awarded. To apply, students must submit a film story based on the theme, "My Life, My Lens," and complete an application.

Applications will be available at <http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/OCPD/MSFF> this week and are due **April 22**.

Educators interested in supporting students can still sign up for a launch workshop to learn how to teach students how to write a film story and successfully apply for a summer film production scholarship. The next three-hour workshop will take place on **March 19**, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Harlem Renaissance Technology Center (425 W. 123rd St, 6th Floor, Manhattan).

For additional information, e-mail NYCMSFF@schools.nyc.gov.

Forum on Overage Middle School Students

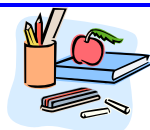
April 27, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

The Academy for Educational Development (AED) and Advocates for Children (AFC) are hosting a Forum for school, network, and district leaders on developing opportunities, programs and services for overage Middle School students in New York City. This forum, which will take place **at AED (100 5th Ave., 8th Floor, NYC)**, is designed to gather stakeholders from across the city to identify common challenges and share information on promising practices to address the needs of the growing overage middle school student population. The forum will offer participants the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the issues affecting these students, make connections and partnerships with colleagues, and leave with detailed information on programs that can be implemented in their own schools.

Other



**MS 390 Warriors Won
First Game Against MS 232
39-37**



AED PSO Support Services – March/April 2009

AED Leadership Fellows Class: Principal's Vision

Wednesday, March 25, 4:30-8:30

MS 80 (140 E. Mosholu Parkway, Bronx, NY 10467)

Middle School Partners in Leadership Program: Coaching Session 2

Wednesday, March 25, 4:30-7:30

MS/HS 368 IN-TECH Academy (2975 Tibbett Ave., Bronx, NY 10463)

Network Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 11:00-4:00

MS 390 (1930 Andrews Ave., Bronx, NY 10453)

AED Leadership Fellows Class: Reflective Review and Self Assessment

Wednesday, April 1, 4:30-8:30

MS 80 (140 E. Mosholu Parkway, Bronx, NY 10467)

Meet the Middle Grades PSO: An informational session/greet & meet to learn more about AED PSO

Tuesday, April 7, 4:30-6:00

MS 80 (140 E. Mosholu Parkway, Bronx, NY 10467)

Young Adolescent Development Monthly Meeting

Monday, April 20

MS 390 (1930 Andrews Ave., Bronx, NY 10453)

Meet the Middle Grades PSO: An informational session/greet & meet to learn more about AED PSO

Tuesday, April 21, 4:30-6:00

AED (100 Fifth Ave. at 15th Street, Manhattan)

Middle School Partners in Leadership Program: Coaching Session 3

Wednesday, April 22, 4:30-7:30

MS/HS 368 IN-TECH Academy (2975 Tibbett Ave., Bronx, NY 10463)

AED Leadership Fellows Class: Instructional Leadership

Thursday, April 23, 4:30-8:30

MS 80 (140 E. Mosholu Parkway, Bronx, NY 10467)

Forum on Overage Middle School Students

Monday, April 27, 4:00-6:00

AED (100 Avenue at 15th Street, 8th Floor, Manhattan)

PSO Site Visit to Holmes Middle School in Fairfax, VA

Thursday, April 29



Please register the names of the participants you will be sending to each workshop with Aurelia Enache at: aenache@aed.org. Questions? Call 212.367.4575