



AUTUMN
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER
2013



54 New Schools Slated to Open this Fall in New York City

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has announced the opening of 54 new schools planned for the Fall, many of which will be located in buildings vacated by schools closed on grounds of poor performance. [Click to read more.](#)

Fordham Study Groups Parents Based on School 'Must-Haves'

A news report from the Thomas B. Fordham Institute paints an interesting picture of parents of students today.

By evaluating what families are looking for from schools and grouping them into 6 groups based on those characteristics, the report concludes that the largest proportion of parents fall into the "pragmatist" group which wants schools to offer programs that would make it easier to their children to transition directly into the



job market, even if the jobs available are not white collar. The report, authored by Dara Zeehandelaar and Amber M. Winkler, finds that regardless of what groups they fall into, almost all parents want some basic minimums from the schools education their children. They want a rigorous curriculum that has a good foundation in mathematics, reading, science and other STEM subjects, and

they want programs that train children to be good students by helping them develop study habits, critical thinking skills and the ability to communicate. Thirty-six percent of parents of K-12 students fall into the aforementioned pragmatist group. They prefer schools that provide vocational and other job-related programs as opposed to those that concentrate on college readiness. When compared to the general population, pragmatists typically earn less and are less likely to be college graduates themselves. Rather surprisingly, they are also more likely than the average parent to have sons.

- **Pragmatists:** (36 percent of K-12 parents) assign high value to schools that, "offer vocational classes or job-related programs." Compared to the total parent population, Pragmatists have lower household incomes, are less likely themselves to have graduated from college, and are more likely to be parents of boys.
- **Jeffersonians:** (24 percent) prefer a school that "emphasizes instruction in citizenship, democracy, and leadership," although they are no more likely than other parents to be active in their communities or schools.
- **Test-Score Hawks:** (23 percent) look for a school that "has high test scores." Such parents are more likely to have academically gifted children who put more effort into school. They are also more likely to set high expectations for their children, push them to excel, and expect them to earn graduate degrees. Test-Score Hawks are also more apt to report that their child has changed schools because, as parents, they were dissatisfied with the school or its teachers.
- **Multiculturalists:** (22 percent) laud the student goal: "learns how to work with people from diverse backgrounds." They are more likely to be African American, to self-identify as liberal, and to live in an urban area.
- **Expressionists:** (15 percent) want a school that "emphasizes arts and music instruction." They are more likely to be parents of girls and to identify as liberal; they are less likely to be Christian. (In fact, they are three times more likely to self-identify as atheists.)
- **Strivers:** (12 percent) assign importance to their child being "accepted at a top-tier college." Strivers are far more likely to be African American and Hispanic. They are also more apt to be Catholic. But they do not differ from the total population in terms of their own educational attainment.

The paper, titled **What Parents Want: Education Preferences and Trade-Offs**, identifies two additional groups: Expressionists and Strivers. Expressionists view education as chiefly a liberal arts endeavor. They want more music and art instruction in schools - something that many schools have had to cut in recent years due to budget woes. They make up just 15% of all parents polled. Expressionists are the least religious of all the categories, with three times as many parents falling into that group identifying as atheist compared to the average.

Considering how easily defined Strivers are - their must-have is a school that prepared students to not just enter college but to be admitted to the best colleges in the country - it is a little surprising that they make up only about 12% of those polled.

Strivers are far more likely to be African American and Hispanic. They are also more apt to be Catholic. But they do not differ from the total population in terms of their own educational attainment.

New York City Schools Get New Disciplinary Guidelines Encouraging Counseling

New York City schools are adopting a more tolerant approach to discipline.

Specifically, the new set of guidelines - which are updated every year prior to commencement of classes in the fall - will eliminate punishments that require removal from classes for most infractions, and will instead encourage administrators and teachers to provide students with counseling as well as offer protection for special needs students.

Margie Feinberg, the district's spokesman, said that the new rules are not only



supposed to create a school environment better suited to academics, but will also allow Department of Education officials to gain insight into causes of misbehavior by attaching a specific code to identify student harassment of other students that is motivated by bias.

[Read more click here.](#)



T2E Job Opportunities

Our client schools are seeking high performing New York State certified teachers and educators:

**Speech Pathologist
Gym Teachers
Music Teachers**

Paraprofessionals

Email your CV/resume w/the subject line of your content area and send to:

Robert Alexander at: RAlexander@teachtoexcel.org

We are also seeking:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTERS

Please email your resume/CV with the subject line as:

PD Presenter

and send to the attention of:

Perren Peterson: PPeterson@teachtoexcel.org

T2E needs your support!

Your contribution to our work and services with your generous donations is highly appreciated. Kindly click here:

T2E GIVING

Teach To Excel Foundation develops long term relationships with public, charter and independent schools through a continuous dialogue with principals, directors, and school leaders. We understand the need to obtain the most qualified teaching professionals and to create development opportunities to maintain excellent teacher quality.

To learn more about T2E please click to:

visit our website!

"The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth."

- John F. Kennedy

Let's Stay Connected

teach@teachtoexcel.org

(718) 643-4220 phone

(718) 643-4244 fax

"Like" us! Write us! Share us!

