

XQ Super School Project

XQ: The Super School Project

The Super School Project is an open call to reimagine and design the next American high school. In towns and cities far and wide, teams will unite and take on this important work of our time: Rethinking and building schools that deeply prepare our students for the rigorous challenges of college, jobs, and life.

This is a challenge to empower all of America to change high school. Together, we can transform communities and build schools that inspire new possibilities.

Over the next few months, we will accept your proposals. Then we'll partner with the winning teams and provide them expert support and a fund of \$50 million to support at least five schools over the next five years to turn their ideas into real Super Schools.

[HTTP://XQSUPERSCHOOL.ORG/CHALLENGE](http://xqsuperschool.org/challenge)

DISCOVER: PHASE OVERVIEW

To embark on the journey of creating a super school that's innovative, engaging, and prepares students for a thriving future, you have to start by understanding young people. Ask about their needs, aspirations, and dreams for the future; study the latest science on how people learn; and learn more about the community your school will serve.

- **STUDENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY**
- **YOUTH EXPERIENCE & ASPIRATIONS**
- **THE SCIENCE OF ADOLESCENT LEARNING**

DESIGN: PHASE OVERVIEW

Take what you've learned to come up with audacious, unconventional, unconstrained ideas for reinventing the American high school. Look at your ideas through several different lenses to make sure you've taken every opportunity to innovate.

- **SCHOOL MISSION & CULTURE**
- **TEACHING & LEARNING**
- **STUDENT AGENCY & ENGAGEMENT**
- **NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS**

SUBMIT: DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2016

DEVELOP: PHASE OVERVIEW

Once you have a design you believe in, it's time to bring all your great ideas to life. To think thoroughly about who to staff your school with and how it will operate. To take advantage of every opportunity for improvement. To consider all the realities of what it will take to launch your school.

- **HUMAN CAPITAL & TRAINING**
- **FACILITIES, TECHNOLOGY, & TIME**
- **IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY**
- **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & EVALUATION**
- **GOVERNANCE**
- **FINANCIAL MODEL & SUSTAINABILITY**



We are starting to see a new definition of what our schools must produce. We must develop these skills and traits—and others like them—so America can lead in a world that is uncertain, constantly changing, and yet also full of opportunity. It's about our students being fully ready.

**Masters
of all
fundamental
literacies.**

Building the academic core necessary to prepare for college, career, and life.
Critical readers.
Compelling writers.
Mathematical and numeric thinkers.
Data and visual thinkers.

**Original
thinkers
for an
uncertain
world.**

Sense-makers—dealing with conflicting knowledge.
Generative thinkers—creating many ideas in ambiguous and new situations.
Creative thinkers—reframing, imagining, and seeing problems from different perspectives.

**Holders of
foundational
knowledge.**

Curious people who are knowledgeable about the world. Its history and culture. Its sciences and underlying mathematics. Its biology and cultural currency.
Engaged participants who are key to creating a more just and functional democracy—who participate fully in all America has to offer.

**Learners
for life.**

Self-driven, self-directed.
Curious learners—about themselves, and the world.
Inventors of their own learning paths, careers, and lives.

Self-aware team members who bring their strengths.
Talent-seekers who find the expertise of others.
Essential co-creators—because of what they bring, and how they show up. Inquisitive world citizens who seek out—and respect—diversity and diverse points of view.

Here's what you need to do to create a student- centered super school.

- Come up with an innovative SCHOOL CONCEPT.
- DISCOVER the needs of the students your school will serve.
- DESIGN transformative learning experiences for those students.
- Teams that move forward will work with experts to DEVELOP a rigorous plan for tackling every aspect of launching their super school—from staffing to facilities to performance measurement.

Building a school is an organic process, and you can approach it any way you wish.

But the journey is not a straight path. And along the way you'll likely experience a few major breakthroughs—leaps of insight—that will both define your school and show you that you're heading in the right direction.

The rest of this book outlines these major breakthroughs.