



The Center for Educational Innovation's Project BOOST was founded more than 20 years ago in New York City **to expose students to new experiences** like live theater and museum trips along with academic support and tutoring to assist all students in accessing the NYC high school of their choice.

With an eye on equity and innovation, in this post pandemic world, the concept has been expanded to **help re-engage our students** with enrichment opportunities designed to **engage students, nurture student talents and interests** and **help identify college and career pathways with career and technical education (CTE) opportunities**, intended to ultimately improve the economic status of our students and their families.

Project BOOST, which stands for **B**uilding **O**ptions and **O**pportunities for **S**tudents, is currently delivered to many public schools thanks to the generous support of elected officials like you, which includes members of the New York State Senate, New York State Assembly, and New York City Councils. This support is crucial to continue to deliver and expand this program in Fiscal Year 2024 so that together, we can help fill gaps and meet the needs of every child with enrichment programs that can transform our students and the public-school experience.

Programming includes Art Education in which students can express solutions to problems affecting their communities through art. STEM education, which includes both Coding and Robotics programs for students and families, and ensures every child's first experience with these disciplines serves as a positive learning experience which inspires students to exceed their own expectations of what they can achieve. Esports, which is the only College to Career enrichment program that opens up opportunities for students to discover and participate of the fast-paced growing Esports industry. High-Impact tutoring, which is necessary now more than ever to support accelerated learning necessary to mitigate the post-pandemic learning loss, as well as addressing the needs of all students including English Language Learners, Students with disability, and new arrivals.

The research has confirmed the impact of enrichment programs that take place before, during or after school, aligned to the regular school day.

The Project BOOST programs cover a wide range of academic disciplines including the Arts, Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM), academic tutoring and support, all infused with social emotional learning and skill development,

Our social action arts and music programs allow students to express themselves, communicate messages reacting to social issues, encouraging discourse and collaborative problem solving; Coding and robotics programs for students and families, ensuring their first experience with these enrichment opportunities are engaging and inspirational; Esports, competitive gaming infused with college and career and character education, exposing our students to this rapidly growing esports industry; high impact tutoring in support of the post

pandemic need for accelerated learning and addressing the needs of all students including english learners, students with disabilities as well as our new arrivals.

Adding to the myriad of programing enjoyed by Project BOOST students, the Center for Educational Innovation's Project BOOST continues its long tradition established with our *Early Stages* program and brings thousands of students to enjoy the rich cultural offering of their city through a guided cultural enrichment experience including live Broadway performances and visit to museums, galleries, and orchestra concerts. Whenever possible, The Center for Educational Innovation partners with local Community Based Organizations to bring additional culturally relevant opportunities to students and their families. Important to the Project BOOST's design, CEI has renewed its focus of embedding *character education, social-emotional learning, and life skills in all of our programs.*

Thanks to your continued support, Project BOOST has touched the lives of thousands of students and as we continue to meet the changing needs of our students and their classrooms, this work *becomes an exploratory opportunity for students, directly linked to your priority and our work with high schools in **Career Tech Education and College to Career.***

Again, research has proved the impact of *enrichment programs that take place before, during and after school, aligned to school day.* There is no more noble mission in public education than that of *nurturing the talents and interests of students, implementing a design to support our public schools' teachers and leaders, and help our students identify career pathways with the goal of ultimately changing our schools, neighborhoods and communities.*

The Center for Educational Innovation's Project BOOST continues to evolve based with new innovations, aligned with careers of the future and the changing needs of our schools, students, and families.

We continue to collect and share evaluation data and success stories of our students; it is built on a strong foundation and history in New York City and driven *by a young, smart, diverse team of educators dedicated to our mission of creating model schools in every neighborhood through our three pillars of work at CEI: whole school transformation, leadership development and professional learning and our signature enrichment program, Project BOOST.*

Support for **The Center for Educational Innovation's Project BOOST** in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget is aligned to the goals of the State and all of our Cities and communities, and is a direct investment in the future of students.

We thank you for your consideration, time, and support. We are confident that our affiliated schools and our students currently participating in Project BOOST can count on each of you to place this much needed program as a budget priority.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Kohlhagen". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a thin horizontal line.

Michael Kohlhagen