

“This is
how kids
want
to learn.”

Arne Duncan, US Secretary of Education,
at King Middle School, Portland, ME

Thinking in a new direction

Across the country, educators, policy makers, and parents are looking for ways to fix an education system that is failing far too many students. Expeditionary Learning offers a different approach to school improvement, and we have the results to prove that it works. We engage our students so that they become self-motivated learners. We inspire our teachers and give them the tools they need to make a difference in their students' achievement. And we give hope to communities that have lost faith in the ability of their schools to prepare young people for success.



Inspiring transformation

A thriving professional network

We partner with school districts and charter boards to open new schools and transform existing schools at all levels, pre-K-12, and in all settings—urban, rural, and suburban. Since our start in 1992, we have grown from a small group of ten schools into a diverse national network of more than 150 schools.

Powerful professional development

We invest in the growth of both new and veteran teachers, helping them create rigorous and stimulating learning environments where students love to learn and teachers love to teach. We offer schools a comprehensive suite of professional development, coaching, and online tools to improve curriculum design, instruction, school culture, leadership, and assessment practices.

Engaged teaching and learning

Our model challenges students to think critically and take active roles in their classrooms and communities. This results in higher achievement and greater engagement in school. Our schools give students the academic and character-building skills they need to reach their potential as learners and leaders.



Alice B. Beal Elementary School
Springfield, MA, Kindergarten

“The idea is to put really important and difficult work together with great joy in doing it.”

Greg Farrell, President Emeritus, Expeditionary Learning



Cultivating student success

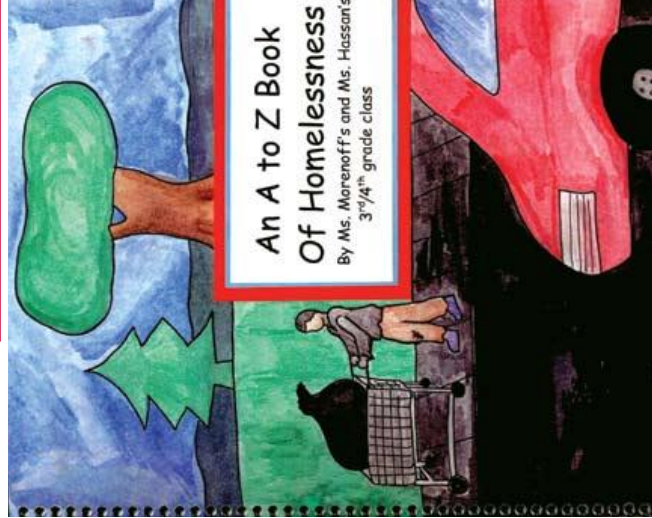
Expeditionary Learning schools are outperforming state and district averages on standardized tests and closing critical achievement gaps. In many US cities, our schools are the highest-performing public schools, and in our high schools, 100 percent college acceptance is the standard. For our students, the benefits are clear.

Students in our schools:

- Graduate with the academic knowledge, critical thinking skills, and problem-solving capacity needed to succeed in college and beyond
- Hold themselves and their peers to high expectations for quality work, commitment to learning, and character
- Take leadership roles in their schools and communities
- Engage their families and communities in their learning by leading family conferences and making formal presentations to expert panels
- Complete projects that challenge them to do the work of professionals — scientists, historians, mathematicians, writers, and artists
- Work with experts and conduct field research to produce high-quality academic products that meet professional standards
- Contribute to their communities through meaningful service embedded in the curriculum
- Benefit from learning in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe, marked by kindness, respect, and responsibility
- Find joy in learning

ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES

Third- and fourth-grade students at **Capital City Public Charter School** in Washington, DC, interviewed social service providers and the homeless people around their school to understand their lives and struggles. They wrote and illustrated an ABC book for younger children to teach them about the humanity and challenges of homeless people.



An A to Z Book Of Homelessness

By Ms. Morenoff's and Ms. Hasson's 3rd/4th grade class

“This kind of innovative school... is an example of how all our schools should be.”

Barack Obama, US President, at Capital City Public Charter School, Washington, DC



ACHIEVING “PERSONAL BESTS”

Kindergartners from **ANSER Charter School** in Boise, ID created bird cards that they sold throughout the state to raise money for bird habitats. They used structured peer critique to improve their drawings, and their fifth-grade research buddies helped them write accurate descriptions of bird habitats, diets, and life cycles.



Penguins live in Antarctica and eat snow and fish. They have flippers and swimming feet. They don't fly but they slide on the ice on their tummies and they swim. Penguins don't build nests. The female lays an egg on the dad's feet and he covers it with his tummy to keep it warm. She goes to get some food. He stays with the egg for 3 weeks and doesn't eat any food. Sometimes an aukler eat penguins so penguins have to swim away from them.

By **Ca Kye N'ha**
Research Buddy: **Michelle**
These cards were created by kindergarten students from the ANSER Charter School, a public charter school in Boise, Idaho. The students were given the opportunity to go to the state to sell their cards and go toward bird conservation and rehabilitation efforts in Idaho.
ANSER Charter School, An Expeditionary Learning Center



SOLVING COMPLEX, REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS

Springfield, MA facilities engineer Joseph Forest asked the ninth-grade environmental science class at **The Springfield Renaissance School** to collect data and make a recommendation for energy conservation in the city's school buildings. Students presented their “Greenprint” to the mayor, who eagerly accepted their recommendations. The city has since saved thousands of dollars in energy costs.



MAKING LEARNING RELEVANT

King Middle School students worked as historians, reporters, and writers to honor local civil rights heroes in their community of Portland, ME. Students interviewed and photographed local citizens who were actively involved in the civil rights movement and created biographies that highlighted their contributions.



Unlocking potential

Codman Academy Charter Public School is an Expeditionary Learning school in Dorchester, one of Boston's most challenged neighborhoods. It opened in 2001 in response to community demand for a small college preparatory high school. Like many of our secondary school students around the country, Codman's students know from the moment they begin ninth grade that they are on a path to college. They focus six days a week on rigorous coursework, in-depth projects, and internships that prepare them for success. They know how to dig deeply for meaning in their reading, write persuasively, learn from their peers, persevere until their work is of high quality, and look for the connections between academics and life.

Since the first students walked across the stage in 2005, all of Codman's graduates have been accepted to four-year colleges. Even better, 75 percent of them have either graduated or are still enrolled. This level of persistence is a direct result of Codman's postgraduate support. The dean of alumni visits graduates on their campuses, provides summer work assistance, and conducts workshops on everything from cultural adjustment to financial aid.

Codman's success is remarkable but not unique among our high schools. Those with 100 percent college acceptance rates set the standard for the national network.

"In addition to studying books and striving for academic excellence, there was definitely the sentiment within the school that we owed a duty to our community and our families."

**Shaun Robinson, Alumnus
Codman Academy**



“The environment at
an Expeditionary Learning
school breeds leaders.”

Roxanne Henry, Parent
World of Inquiry School, Rochester, NY

Building quality schools

Our on-site coaching, off-site institutes, mentor schools, print materials, and online resources help new and existing schools move toward excellence.

Dynamic leadership

We support school leaders in building effective, collaborative teams focused sharply on student achievement, continuous improvement, and celebrating learning across the school.

Compelling curriculum

We make content and skills standards come alive for students by connecting learning to relevant issues, identified needs, and authentic audiences. Academic content is charged with rigor through the curricular structures of learning expeditions, case studies, projects, fieldwork, consultation with community experts, service learning, and exhibitions of student work.

Engaging instruction

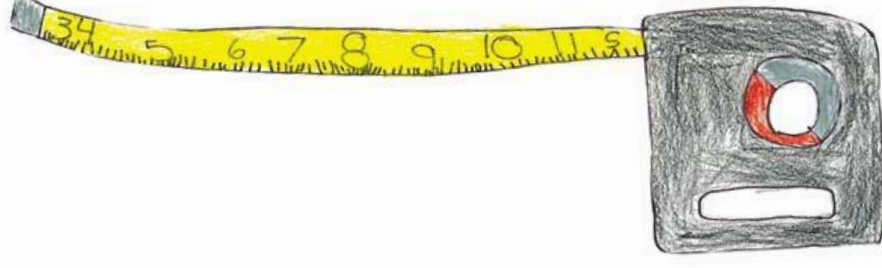
We teach effective instructional strategies during off-site institutes and on-site professional development sessions. Our school designers work one-on-one with individual teachers in the classroom and outside of class to plan, model, critique, and support best practices.

Continuous assessment

We equip teachers to infuse ongoing formative assessment into their lessons and to build effective summative assessments to track student learning. We support a whole-school focus on using multiple sources of data to refine instruction and improve student achievement.

Positive school cultures

We help our schools build cultures of respect, responsibility, courage, and kindness, where students and adults are committed to quality work and citizenship.



Alice B. Beal Elementary School
Springfield, MA, Kindergarten

Join us

School leaders, teachers, parents, and supporters can help bring Expeditionary Learning to more schools. You can read more about us and review our latest results at www.elschools.org. Contact us to learn more about our school partnerships and ways to support our mission.

Together, we can transform our schools into places where students and adults become leaders of their own learning.





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