



visionary

NEW VISIONS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

vi·sion·ary

['viZHə,nerē] *noun*.
1. one who thinks about or plans the future with imagination or wisdom

New Visions for Public Schools has always seen a brighter future for public education.

For 30 years, we’ve designed, created, and sustained great public schools for all New Yorkers.

We’ve worked on the ground, empowering and equipping everyday visionaries—New York City’s educators, students, and families—with the tools and support to achieve the future they imagine for themselves.

We’re deeply proud of that past, but we know there is more to be done in the future. All of New York City’s students deserve great public schools, and we will work until we see that vision become reality.

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We've always believed in the power of great public schools.

For the last 30 years, our work has centered on a vision of making great public schools common in New York City, because we believe that all of New York City's students deserve public schools that make successful futures possible. When we began, that idea seemed out of reach: graduation rates for students of color and low-income students were below 50 percent, meaning students faced poor odds of walking across the stage in four years. Today, much has changed: in 2019, more than 85 percent of students in our core network graduated in four years, and the gap in graduation rates between black and Latinx students and their white and Asian peers is smaller than it has ever been.

How did we do it? Thirty years of partnering with educators, students, and families to develop practical solutions that respond to real-world problems. When many of the city's largest schools were impersonal places that left many students behind, we joined with educators and community leaders to launch the small schools movement. When traditional teacher preparation left new educators unprepared to teach on day one, we teamed up with CUNY to design nationally recognized teacher residencies to train the next generation of educators. When teachers told us they were spending hours searching for high-quality instructional materials, we worked with them to create ambitious, realistic, and free high school curricula to respond to changing academic standards. When school leaders saw data as a barrier rather than a bridge to student success, we collaborated with New York City school leaders to create the New Visions Data Portal, which is now available to every district high school in New York City.

Every step of the way, we've partnered with everyday visionaries—educators, students, and families. In the pages that follow, we shine a spotlight on four of today's everyday visionaries. Together, we've built a better today, but there's still work to be done to build a better tomorrow. As we continue to partner with them, we hope that you will partner with us as we strengthen New York City's public schools.


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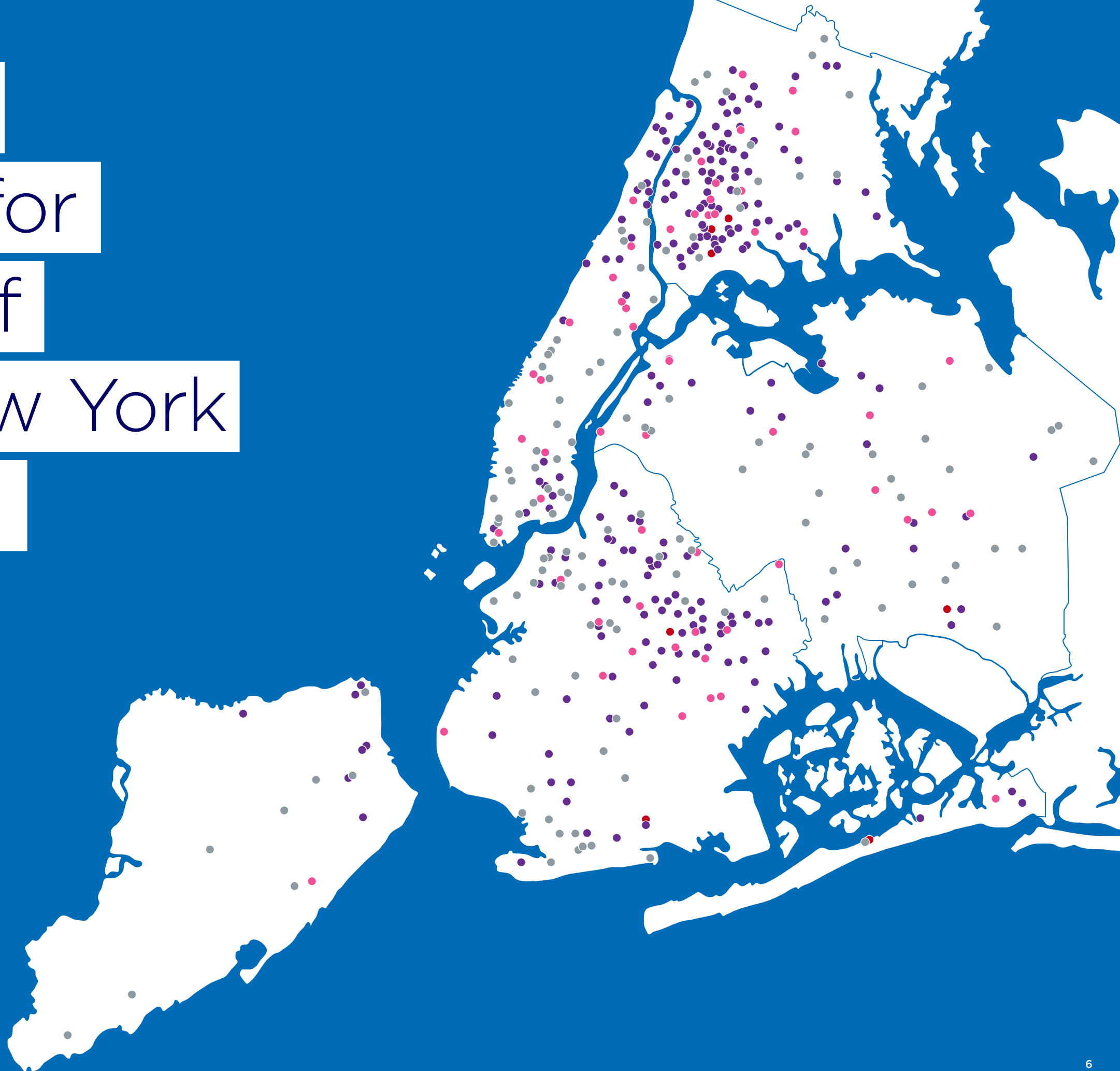

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We help **709**
schools plan for
the success of
425,000 New York
City students.

-
- **10** New Visions Charter Schools
 - **71** New Visions Affinity Schools
 - **293** DOE Community Schools
 - **335** DOE Expansion Schools
-



The challenges schools face are too complex for quick fixes.

That's why New Visions takes the time to build systems that address root causes rather than treat discrete symptoms. It's how we improve year after year.

To us, systems are all about how people, resources, and processes interact in order to accomplish critical tasks or goals. In systems-building, we start with the basics. We make real investment in infrastructure like student planning tools and free, high-quality curricula because we believe that without these, nothing else—innovative instructional methods, new programs, professional learning—works to its full potential.

We also believe that schools should solve systemic challenges together, not be expected to invent their

own solutions. We create spaces that elevate the expertise and amplify the voices of New York City teachers, administrators, students, and families, while helping them productively learn with each other. This means we can all build on what we know. Continuous improvement, not continuous reinvention.

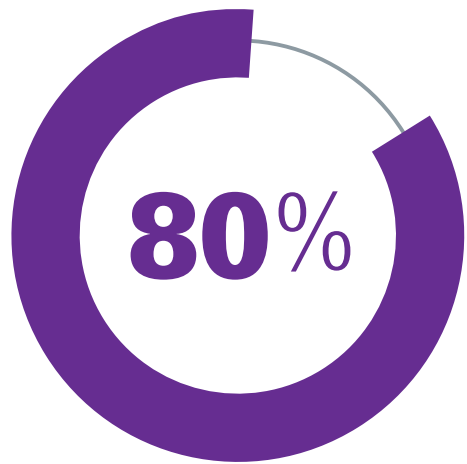
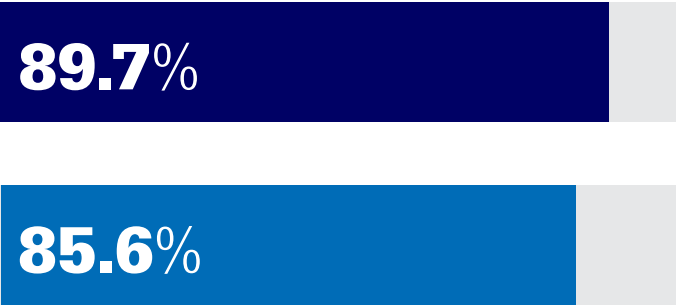
The end result is that teachers, administrators, students, and families can depend on high-quality tools, resources, and processes, ones they have informed and helped create. Strong systems ensure that educators have the time, information, and resources needed to do their job—educating students. They can spend less time inventing their job and more time doing it.



Our results are a record of consistent improvement we are deeply proud of.

Our results represent the collective efforts of the thousands of educators we support in our schools, as well as all of our teams here at New Visions. They’re the culmination of multiple consecutive years of gains. In most New Visions schools, nearly everyone graduates in four years. That may not sound like a big deal, but it is.

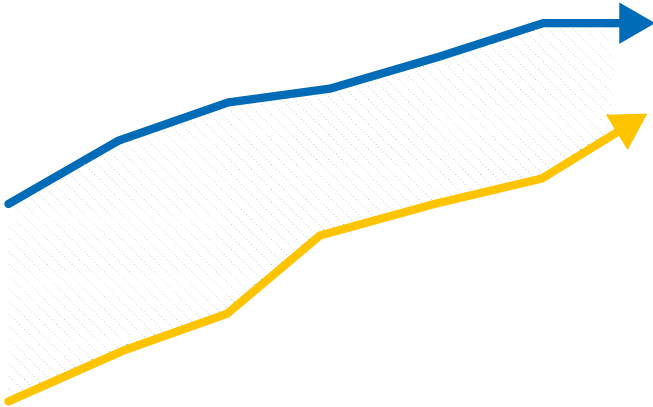
Our charter high school graduation rate approached 90 percent (up 2.6 points from last year). Our district partner schools surpassed 85 percent for the first time (up 1.3 points).



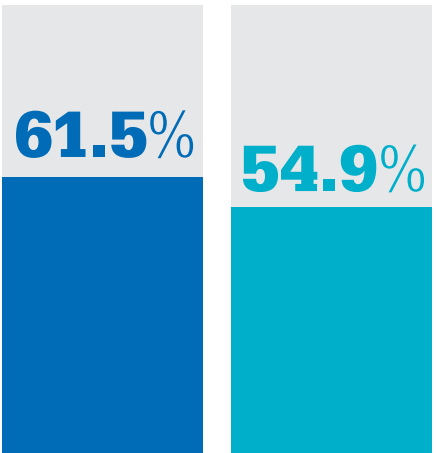
As recently as 2013, half of the district schools we support had graduation rates below 70 percent. Now only one does.

Today, three-quarters of the schools we support surpass an 80 percent graduation rate.

We’re closing equity gaps. The difference in graduation rates between white and Asian students, and black and Latinx students is half what it was in 2013.



For the first time, more than half of black and Latinx students graduated college-ready.



College readiness in our charter schools reached 54.9 percent (up 10 points), and in our district schools, it reached 61.5 percent (up 4 points).

This means nearly 3,000 more students can start in credit-bearing college courses than could in 2013.

OUR WORK

Despite extraordinary progress, great challenges remain. There are still students who don't graduate on time, and too many struggle to make a successful transition to college or a job. Our record of improvement gives us confidence that we can overcome those challenges, as well. This is still our work. We focus on these core areas to make our vision a reality.



ESTABLISHING SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE

Schools deserve access to shared, high-quality tools and resources for school management and classroom instruction—basic school infrastructure—that support their work and let them focus on improvement over time. In partnership with school leaders, teachers, and the Department of Education, we have created tools and resources that are now used by hundreds of New York City schools and thousands of teachers across the country.



CULTIVATING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Beyond the students and staff in a school building, schools operate at the center of broad, dynamic networks that play an integral role in student success in and after high school. We are developing systemic approaches to help schools engage families, community members, and partner organizations, as well as graduates as they transition into postsecondary life.



EQUIPPING TEACHERS AND LEADERS

The people working in schools—and their skills, knowledge, and creativity—are the most important factors in achieving sustainable success for students. As they tackle the ever-evolving opportunities and challenges inherent in day-to-day schoolwork, we help school staff grow and excel individually and collectively, on day one and throughout their careers.



DEVELOPING SYSTEMS FOR SUCCESS

Ultimately, people, programs, and practices must coalesce to create a successful school. Tools, curricula, and other resources that are effective in theory but not usable in practice are common. To ensure that we are developing approaches that work in authentic contexts, we operate our own charter schools and partner with the NYC Department of Education to co-design, implement, and scale approaches to school management and improvement.



ESTABLISHING SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE

Designed with school leaders, teachers, and the Department of Education, the New Visions Data Portal and our high school curricula are used by hundreds of New York City schools and thousands of teachers to map daily instruction, plan for student success, and support students every step of the way.

CORE WORK:

NEW VISIONS DATA PORTAL

FREE, HIGH-QUALITY CURRICULA

2018-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

~850

Educators used the Data Portal each week



4,000,000+

Page views on the curriculum websites



National recognition from EQuIP for the first unit of our new high school biology course

2020 VISION

We are broadening our support and deepening our work. We will work closely with instructional leaders to develop materials that support school-embedded and curriculum-based professional learning. The Data Portal will reach every district high school in New York City, so we're focused on ensuring a high-quality experience for all users.



MY VISION for New York City...

In October, the Department of Education announced that it would provide the New Visions Data Portal, a student-centered planning tool, to all district high schools in New York City.

As a system, we want to give our teachers the tools to know each student well and meet each student's needs. Now, our high school principals have a one-stop shop for in-the-moment data that will tell them how their students are doing. This is going to make a real difference for our students and our schools. *(New York Daily News, October 23, 2019)*

-Chancellor Richard Carranza
New York City Department of Education

EQUIPPING TEACHERS AND LEADERS

Principals, teachers, and counselors in our network of schools are learning with and from each other, defining their common day-to-day work while building rich peer networks that empower them to tackle the persistent challenges of making sure that every student makes it over the finish line.

CORE WORK:

NEW TEACHER DEVELOPMENT	CURRICULUM-ALIGNED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING	PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS
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2018-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1,400



Teachers and instructional leaders participated in our professional learning workshops

50+

Schools participated in the College Access & Action Network, a professional learning network for counselors



New York City's Comptroller highlighted the New Visions Urban Teacher Residency as a model residency program

2020 VISION

As we complete our core curriculum, we're expanding field tests to understand how new curricula actually gets used in the classroom and how to support teachers as they transition to ambitious new standards for student learning. Our network of college advisors will ensure that students receive consistent support during junior and senior year as they make choices that have profound implications for their future.



MY VISION for my students...

I had one goal when I left my position as a college professor in Canada to become a high school teacher in the Bronx: to help my students fall in love with science the way I had. During my first year as a science teacher, I quickly realized how difficult that is when you have limited resources and no existing curriculum. I'd spend hours searching for activities that would interest my students and always struggled to find the right material. At the end of my first year, I discovered the New Visions science curriculum and everything changed. Finding full courses, with activities that my students could actually relate to, helped us explore science in a deep and rich way. It also showed my students that they were capable of exploring and discussing complicated scientific concepts. They could feel the joy of understanding and succeeding in science at a rigorous level. That is all I've ever wanted for my students. To make science enjoyable and accessible to them. Every student deserves that.

-Andrea Sau, Living Environment and IB Biology Teacher
Mott Hall Bronx High School

CULTIVATING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

We are engaging families, community partners, employers, colleges, and alumni to ensure that students are set up to transition successfully to college and career pathways after they graduate from high school.

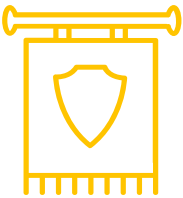
CORE WORK:


FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	POSTSECONDARY PLANNING	PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
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2018-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

600+ 

Students participated in work-based learning activities through the Transfer to Career (T2C) initiative, a partnership with JobsFirst NYC

22 
Alumni returned to their high schools to coach **2,000+** students in their transition to college

 **200+**
Students participated in career learning opportunities with partners like Genesys Works, First Workings, Fresh Air Fund, and Simpson Thacher & Bartlett



MY VISION for my future ...

Opportunity. That word has always been important to me. When I was in the 8th grade looking at high schools in my neighborhood, I chose AMS because there were so many opportunities for me to explore and I liked that. I’m glad I chose my school because here I am, a senior with an internship that is teaching me so much about myself and all the things that I’m capable of when I believe in myself. So far, I’ve learned how to network, how to prepare well for an interview, and, most of all, to just be myself, wherever I am, especially at work. “Be yourself and opportunity will follow.” That is my new mantra. I hope that somewhere along my path, in college and when I become a pediatrician, I can change the world by spreading that message to everyone I encounter.

–**Moesha Brown, 12th Grader**
New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math & Science

DEVELOPING SYSTEMS FOR SUCCESS

We operate our own charter schools and partner with the New York City Department of Education, using a model of continuous improvement that positions educators as problem solvers who surface important challenges and improve key systems in their schools, year after year.

CORE WORK:

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT COACHING	NEW VISIONS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS	PARTNERSHIP WITH NYC DOE
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2018-19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1,900

Seniors benefited from structured college advising cycles through our College Advising Pilot



26,000

Student graduation plans captured in the Portal

18

Schools in our Network for School Improvement elevated GPA as an early indicator of college readiness

2020 VISION

New Visions Affinity and Charter schools will tackle challenges like ensuring more students start high school strong and earn a college-ready GPA and math Regents score. Working in partnership with other Affinity groups and our executive superintendent, we will develop protocols for district-level support using the New Visions Data Portal.



MY VISION for my school...

I've always wanted to be a principal. My father was an educator and seeing the lifelong impact he had on his students ignited a passion in me. I learned from him, and over my 20 years as an educator, that students respond to authentic connections. When they feel a sense of belonging, they are empowered to succeed. That can only happen when you have the right systems in place to provide the personalized support that they need and deserve. Using the Portal helped me understand my students in a deeper way and identify trends that prompted schoolwide improvements. Now that our graduation rate is above 90 percent, I'm focused on helping students graduate college- and career-ready, and I'm leveraging my network at New Visions to pilot solutions, like more support for developing strong study skills, that will help them get there. To me, this is success: knowing my students by name and by need, and having the tools necessary to help them succeed.

-Dyanand Sugrim, Principal
The Heritage School

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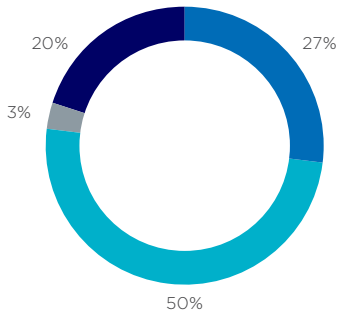
FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES*

Year ended June 30, 2019

REVENUE

■ Government	\$	10,011,126
■ Corporations		44,538
■ Foundations		18,275,023
■ Individuals		1,240,097
■ Other (including investment returns)		7,220,975
Total Revenue	\$	36,791,760



EXPENSES

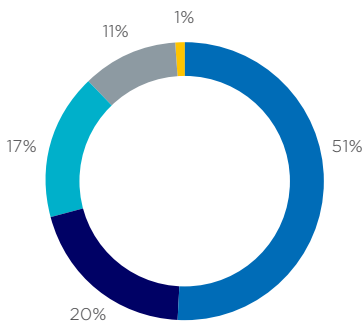
PROGRAM SERVICES

■ School Support	\$	13,788,270
■ Curriculum & Instruction		5,355,190
■ Systems & Data		4,669,273
Subtotal Program Services	\$	23,812,734

SUPPORTING SERVICES

■ Management and general	\$	3,067,886
■ Fundraising		284,530
Subtotal Supporting Services		3,352,416

Total Expenses **\$ 27,165,149**



NET ASSETS

Beginning of Year	\$	48,108,226
Change in Net Assets		9,626,611
End of Year	\$	57,734,837

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, New Visions records contributions as revenue in the year in which they are committed even if the funds are not received. Expenditures are recorded in the year in which they are incurred.

* Financial information is unaudited as of publication. Upon completion, audited financials for FY19 will be posted to www.newvisions.org.



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