XQ Institute: High School Transformation and the Future of Work

JENNIFER ELLIS
Our mission is to fuel America’s collective creativity to transform high school so every student succeeds — no matter their race, gender or zip code.

We want to see that change underway in every high school and in every community — all 14,000+ school districts.
WHY HIGH SCHOOL

Transformed high schools drive improvement in the elementary and middle grades by setting high expectations for learning while also creating a critical connection to postsecondary options.

High schools are the one part of our education system that has made the least progress.

New neuroscience research shows that teenage brains are primed to learn
WE LAUNCHED XQ: SUPER SCHOOL PROJECT
SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

A call to all thinkers, makers, dreamers and education inventors to rethink the 100-year old outmoded American high school.
America rose to the challenge

NEARLY

**10,000 SCHOOL BUILDERS**

FROM ALL

**50 STATES**

REPRESENTING OVER

**59 OCCUPATIONS**

**696 TEAMS**

SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS
A Growing XQ Super School Cohort

- Latitude 37.8 High School
  - Oakland, CA
  - Opened in 2018

- Summit Shasta
  - Daly City, CA
  - Opened in 2017

- Da Vinci Rise High
  - Los Angeles, CA
  - Opened in 2017

- Círculos
  - Santa Ana, CA
  - Opened in 2018

- Vista High School
  - Vista, CA
  - Opened in 2017

- Compass Academy
  - Denver, CO
  - Opening in 2020

- Iowa Big
  - Cedar Rapids, IA
  - Opened in 2017

- Purdue Polytechnic High School
  - Indianapolis, IN
  - Opened in 2017

- Tulsadistrict
  - Oklahoma
  - Opened in 2018

- Grand Rapids Public Museum High School
  - Grand Rapids, MI
  - Opened in 2018

- Tiger Ventures
  - Endicott, NY
  - Opened in 2017

- Brooklyn Laboratory High School
  - Brooklyn, NY
  - Opened in 2017

- Washington Leadership Academy
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Opened in 2017

- Bartley Program
  - Elizabethton High School
  - Elizabethton, TN
  - Opened in 2018

- CROSSTOWN High
  - Memphis, TN
  - Opened in 2018

- New Harmony High
  - New Orleans, LA
  - Opened in 2018

- Furr Institute for Innovative Thinking
  - Houston, TX
  - Opened in 2017

- Psi High
  - Sanford, FL
  - Opened in 2018

- Compass Academy
  - Denver, CO
  - Opening in 2020

District/State Partnerships

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We empowered communities by providing them with design tools to reimagine high school - with the goal of not simply building a better school, but providing the framework and the inspiration to rethink high school itself.
DESIGN JOURNEY | 13 MODULES, 3 PHASES

1. STUDENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY
   What do young people need to learn today to succeed in the future?

2. YOUTH EXPERIENCE & ASPIRATIONS
   What can adolescents teach us about high school?

3. THE SCIENCE OF ADOLESCENT LEARNING
   How do teenagers learn and grow?

4. SCHOOL MISSION & CULTURE
   Why does every school need a clear, well-articulated mission?

5. TEACHING & LEARNING
   What’s essential for effective learning today?

6. STUDENT AGENCY & ENGAGEMENT
   How can schools motivate and empower young people to take responsibility for their own learning?

7. NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS
   How can we expand the boundaries of learning beyond school?

8. TALENT & TRAINING
   How can schools identify, attract, develop, and retain the very best people?

9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & EVALUATION
   How can measurement inform teaching and learning to inspire continuous improvement across an entire school?

10. TIME, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
    How can we rethink when, where, and how learning happens?

11. FINANCIAL MODEL & SUSTAINABILITY
    How can a school’s financial model make the most of its resources to keep the focus on students?

12. GOVERNANCE
    How do effective boards help guide schools to fulfill their mission and achieve their goals?

13. PUTTING IDEAS INTO ACTION
    What does it take to rethink high school?

REIMAGINING HIGH SCHOOL TAKES A LOT OF HARD WORK. AND DEEP KNOWLEDGE.

These refreshed modules offer a mix of cutting-edge academic research and inspiration to help anyone think boldly about both the possibilities and the realities of rethinking high school.
XQ in a Box

A TOOL FOR PARTNERS AND SCHOOL DESIGNERS EVERYWHERE

Our new, digital-first XQ design materials will empower communities to navigate the school design process.

- Based on our original XQ Knowledge Modules and materials, expanded and updated
- New content includes videos/multimedia, case studies, lessons from XQ Schools
- Stronger focus on high school redesign

XQ DESIGN THINKING FLIPS TRADITIONAL SCHOOL DESIGN ON ITS HEAD

**Discover:**
Start by asking what students need.

**Design:**
Create a school design that’s grounded in research-based design principles.

**Develop:**
Map out a practical plan.
State policies can make a big difference and deliver real results for high school students.

But meeting this challenge isn’t merely about passing laws or launching new initiatives.

It’s also about galvanizing a statewide movement to transform high schools.
STATE LEADERS
POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

1. EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO DESIGN HIGH SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE

2. MAKE DIPLOMAS MEANINGFUL WITH COLLEGE ADMISSION ALIGNMENT AND MODERN CAREER PREPARATION

3. GET TEACHERS THE TOOLS THEY NEED
Text EDUCATION to 724665 for updates about XQ tools and resources!