



I am Ready!



Institute for
Student Achievement

Proven Results

Creating graduates who are ready

ISA students are succeeding. Two independent external studies of ISA schools by the Academy for Educational Development and IMPAQ International found that ISA has a large and positive effect on student achievement, significantly improving high school attendance, credit accumulation, grade promotion, high school graduation rates, and college attendance and persistence rates.

Studies show that ISA's largely African American and Latino student population has a four-year cohort graduation rate of nearly 80%. This dramatically exceeds the national high school graduation rate for African American students of 60% and Latino students of 58%. Beyond high school, 90% of ISA students persist to the third semester in college, as compared to the national rate for all students of 77% and the national average for African Americans and Latinos of 55%.

ISA schools work for students. ISA students are ready!



“As a school, we are pushed to focus on thinking skills and habits of mind. Working with ISA changed classroom practice in our school.”

- Principal, ISA partner school

90% College persistence rate of ISA students

who persist to the third semester, as compared to the national rate of 77%, and the national rate for African American and Latino students of 55%.

81% of ISA students have either graduated from college or are still enrolled after 4 years

80% Average 4-year cohort high school graduation rate for ISA students, as compared to the national average.

For ISA's largely African American and Latino student population, this number greatly exceeds the national high school graduation rate of 60% for African Americans and 58% for Latino students.

70,000+ students impacted



Our Story

Preparing students for over 2 decades

In 1990, philanthropists Lilo and Gerard Leeds founded ISA as a non-profit organization committed to improving the educational conditions and outcomes for America's underserved youth.

In 2000, after 10 years of measurable success, ISA resolved to extend its reach to serve more students. Under the leadership of Dr. Gerry House, a nationally recognized educator, ISA became a close partner to schools, with an implementation model grounded in educational research and practitioner expertise.

In 2001, ISA tapped NCREST, the National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools & Teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University, as a strategic education partner. NCREST collaborated with ISA on the design, development and implementation of ISA's high school reform model and continues to be an active ISA partner.

Today, after over two decades of partnering with high schools, ISA has a successful track record of having served over 70,000 students, providing them a pathway to high school success and college readiness.

“My ISA high school taught life goals and lessons that would help us in our future. Everyone wanted to be there and genuinely cared about each other’s lives.”

Brandon Baiden, 2008 graduate, QHST, New York

Brandon Baiden, a Phi Beta Kappa *cum laude* graduate of Stony Brook University and currently a successful associate producer for TV's *The Wendy Williams Show*, is also a 2008 graduate of Queens High School for Teaching (QHST), an ISA partner school.

Brandon recalls that his ISA high school experience was instrumental in his college success and the launch of his dream career in media. “I learned several important lessons, such as not being afraid to ask questions or to go out of my comfort zone, to speak out, to communicate, to network and connect to people.” ISA schools build social skills, as well as academic skills.

Five years after graduating, Brandon remains connected to his ISA high school. “I am still close to faculty and students. I talk to my English teacher almost every day.” Building relationships and personalizing learning are key components of the ISA approach. “QHST teachers take time to get to know students as individuals. They care about students and their well-being. Everybody matters.”

Mission

The Institute for Student Achievement (ISA) partners with schools and districts to transform public high schools so that students who are traditionally underserved and underperforming graduate prepared for success in college.

“The theme, ‘I am ready!’ truly sets the tone for what ISA strives to accomplish: Providing the organizational and professional development supports that schools, principals, and teachers need to graduate all students ready to succeed in college and career.

Two independent studies show this is exactly the result we are achieving — our students are graduating high school and persisting in college. ISA students not only say, ‘I am ready!’ their results show that indeed they ARE ready!”

Dr. Gerry House
President, ISA



The ISA Approach

Ready to succeed



ISA's proven approach is research-based, effective, and sustainable. The ISA model has three core areas of focus that are supported by seven research-based principles and a strong ISA network.



COLLEGE PREP TEACHING & LEARNING

College-preparatory instructional program provides all students with a rigorous, inquiry-based curriculum and instruction aligned with the Common Core State Standards and Danielson Framework.

Extended day/extended year provide additional opportunities for student enrichment and remediation.

Continuous professional development ensures a collaborative learning community in which teachers and school leaders participate in individual and team coaching.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS & PERSONALIZATION

Distributed counseling leverages trusting adult/student relationships to increase achievement and provide a safety net of care and support.

Dedicated team of teachers and counselors provides a consistent, four-year support network.

Parent involvement is strongly encouraged, as it has been proven to positively influence student learning and achievement.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Continuous organizational improvement is facilitated by the use of data to monitor program implementation and student performance outcomes.

The ISA Network allows school leaders, teachers and counselors to connect with a larger community of ISA educators to promote sharing and collaboration.



“My coach does a great job helping me to improve curriculum. She can look at curriculum and help us improve it for greater student understanding, performance and achievement.”

Teacher, Park East High School

To ensure that all students are ready to succeed in college, schools must teach and students must learn and apply higher order thinking, analytic writing skills, and content area knowledge. Through its intensive school, leadership, and content coaching, the ISA model is designed to make that happen. ISA's model transforms the culture of a school into a high performing educational community focused on changing the life trajectories of its students. In such an environment, graduation from high school and college success become real possibilities.

72% of ISA coaches are former dynamic principals

Customized Solutions

Ensuring that every school is prepared

Every school is unique. That's why ISA customizes its solutions to respond to the individual needs and local context of each school. In collaboration with schools and districts, ISA's team of expert educators helps to assess the strengths and weaknesses of each school in order to design a customized plan. ISA then supports schools in the implementation of practices and strategies that will increase their capacity to graduate all students ready for success in college and career. **ISA uses three approaches to support the transformation of high schools. If you're ready to create a college-going culture, ISA is ready with the right solution for you.**

New School Development

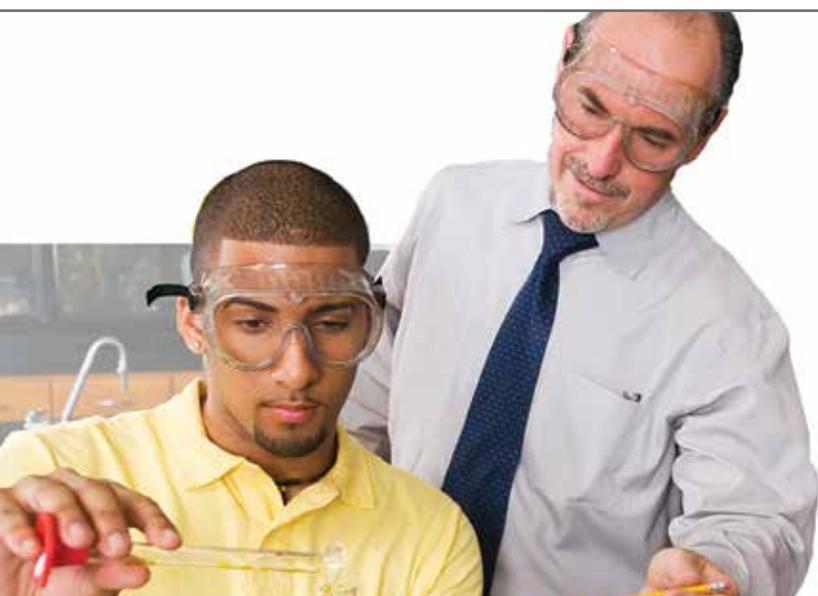
- Creates new small schools, including Career and Technical Education schools, starting with a 9th grade and adding a grade per year
- Creation of a new culture with norms and practices designed for success
- Typically used where districts have a small school reform strategy or desire innovation and diversity in their portfolio of high schools

Restructuring of Existing School

- Redesign an existing, failing school into small schools or small learning communities
- Typically used where a large, failing high school has not improved after many attempts at improvement

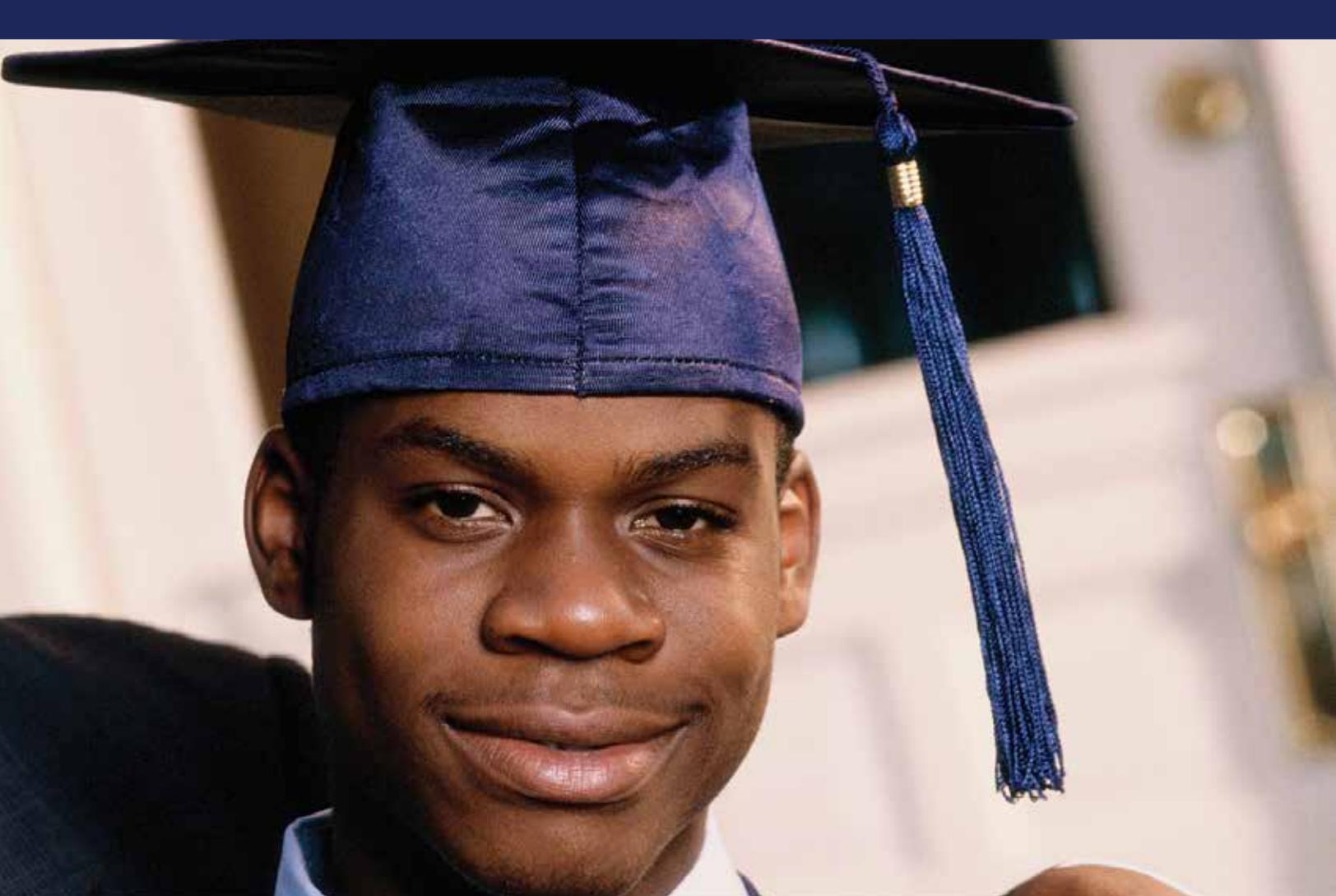
Targeted Intervention of Existing School

- Supports existing schools to improve in selected areas such as leadership, instruction, content knowledge and pedagogy, student support system and counseling
- Typically used where schools exhibit some evidence of graduating students college-ready, but need to build capacity in a few areas



“My coach helps me break a lesson into several different steps to build a group project. She helps me look at content and see what’s really needed for kids to understand a topic.”

Teacher, Queens High School of Teaching



Are You Ready?

If you want your school to graduate all students ready for college and career success, then an ISA partnership can help you get there.

“School is like family. It is always possible to find teachers who will help. Friends from other schools say it is unbelievable to have the support we have here.”

Student, George Washington Carver School of the Arts

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