

NYC iSchool and iZone

Program Overview

Cisco collaborated with the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) and the Fund for Public Schools to launch the NYC iSchool in September 2008. NYC iSchool is a high school that incorporates online coursework, video conferencing technology, and problem-based, interdisciplinary modules to improve learning outcomes.

Building on the success of the NYC iSchool, the NYC DOE and the Fund for Public will be scaling the model to additional schools in the system through the newly established NYC Innovation Zone (iZone) initiative.

Why Cisco?

NYC iZone provides an opportunity for the Cisco® Global Education team to develop a replicable education delivery model that will help students prepare for success in the 21st century. NYC iSchool and iZone also demonstrate the essential role technology can play in education transformation.

Updates and Impact

- **Innovation Zone (iZone):** NYC DOE Chancellor Joel Klein launched the iZone initiative at NYC iSchool in May 2009 to replicate the iSchool model in other schools and provide more personalized, technology-enabled instruction that helps students prepare for college and careers.
- **Attendance:** NYC iSchool student attendance for the 2008-2009 school year was 94 percent versus a citywide average of 50 percent.
- **Regents Exams:** In 2009, 93 percent of iSchool students passed the Global History & Geography Regents Exam versus an average citywide pass rate of 50 percent, and 99 percent of iSchool students passed the Living Environments Regents Exam.
- **Connected Learning:** NYC iSchool students have used technology to learn about neuroscience from Nobel Laureates at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, learn about the earth's atmosphere and global climate change from a NASA scientist, connect with peers in the Gulf Coast and share perspectives on 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, and access online advanced placement and college-preparatory courses.
- **iZone Model Schools:** Cisco supported the launch of nine iZone model schools in September 2009 that focus on different themes, including green careers, the history of cinema, gaming theory, engineering, architecture, technology, and global awareness. NYC DOE and the Fund for Public Schools plan to launch 10-12 additional schools in 2010 and incubate a series of innovative learning practices at several pilot schools.
- **Professional Development:** Cisco has trained 70 teachers, 11 principals, 12 administrators, and representatives at 10 partner organizations.
- **The Fund for Public Schools:** Cisco has provided funding for leadership development, vision setting workshops, educational consultants, instructional projects, curriculum development, professional development, and classroom technology support.
- **The School of One:** Cisco helped fund the research and development of a personalized learning model called the School of One. The School of One was one of Time Magazine's 50 Best Inventions for 2009, and School of One practices will be replicated at traditional schools to provide more individualized instruction and performance tracking.

For More Information

To learn more about NYC iSchool and iZone, please visit www.transformgloaleducation.org.