



District Engagement

Fall 2021

“There are so many more students who are gifted, who are talented, who are brilliant, who have special gifts and I think this is a moment about creating opportunities for all students to demonstrate their powerful learning abilities.”

Chancellor Meisha Porter

What is Brilliant NYC?

- Starting with kindergarten next year, all elementary schools will begin implementing an accelerated instructional model in mixed classes
 - > **65,000** kindergarteners will receive a new instruction model based on the latest research
 - > Expands the number of schools with accelerated programming (from 80 to all 800 elementary schools)
 - > Builds on the success of our 3K and Pre-K programs
- We will begin by training all 4,000 kindergarten teachers to:
 - > Create rich learning environments in their classrooms
 - > Provide age-appropriate project opportunities
 - > Learn to observe and identify students' strengths

What is Brilliant NYC?

- Engagement will solicit community feedback to hear about the kinds of learning experiences families want for their children, beginning with all kindergarten students
 - > Takes the latest research and brings it alive for the local community
 - > Honors the expertise of the community, our families and educators
 - > Builds on the work the District is already doing to ensure ALL students receive high-quality instruction
- Students currently enrolled in gifted and talented programs will experience no disruption in their educational program

Our Shared Goals

Today, we are here to:

- Learn about the core ideas of Brilliant NYC, a blueprint for re-imagining K-5 education based on the latest research.
- Leverage our existing work as a community to engage in conversations and hear about the perspectives of others.
- Begin the process of co-designing the future of education with families as partners.

"We are coming together, into neighborhoods across the city, to hear directly from communities about the types of learning opportunities that pique students' interests and let their gifts shine."

Chancellor Meisha Porter

Let's Make It Happen Together



City-wide
Panel Discussion



District
Community
Meetings



Local
Leverage Existing
Community Groups



District Community Meetings

This is a different kind of community engagement.

Format for today's meeting:

- Hear directly from your District team and leaders from NYC DOE
- Learn about the latest research that informs Brilliant NYC blueprint
- Engage in a facilitated conversation with other members of your District community
- In break out rooms, you will:
 - Have a facilitator to guide the conversation; facilitator will be a member of your local community
 - Take turns sharing your thoughts and ideas with each other
 - Have a note taker to record important points from the conversation

Blueprint for Our Design

As we redefine K-5 education together, we will include....



SEEING
CHILDREN FOR
THEIR
STRENGTHS



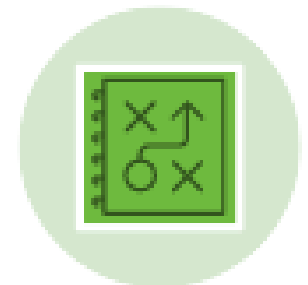
RICH LEARNING
EXPERIENCES



REAL WORLD
PROJECTS



OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
ACCELERATION



INDIVIDUALIZED
PATHWAYS



We will take a closer look at three of these elements together. These elements were selected since they will serve as the foundation of Kindergarten instruction in September 2022.

Let's Take a Closer Look!



Seeing Children for their Strengths

Science tells us that the brain has unlimited capacity for learning and all children have an innate drive to learn.

Brilliant NYC recognizes this research and will grow kindergarten teachers expertise to:

- Assess not only academic skills but “soft” skills like critical thinking, creativity and problem solving
- Gather information about strengths and interests across all domains
- Use information to ensure all students become independent by nurturing their innate potential
- Learn what students can do when asked to apply their learning in authentic contexts using digital portfolios



Rich Learning Experiences

Science tells us the brain is a muscle that continues to get stronger over time as children take on new challenges and try new things.

Brilliant NYC recognizes this research and will grow kindergarten teachers' expertise to:

- Create challenging and rigorous opportunities for young children
- Teach children to persevere through difficult situations
- Guide children to challenge themselves to do more than what is academically comfortable
- Make mistakes and learn from those mistakes
- Give children opportunities to learn about their own likes, interests, and strengths



Real World Projects

Science tells us that young children learn through active inquiry and that learning connected to existing schema is more “sticky.”

Brilliant NYC recognizes this research and will grow kindergarten teachers’ expertise to:

- Guide students as they work on age appropriate projects that are connected to the world around them
- Ensure students experience standards-aligned science and social studies everyday; this is the key to being a good reader in later grades!
- Support students as they work together to solve real world problems, tackle social justice issues, and create authentic products.

We Learned A Lot. Now It's Your Turn to Discuss!

If you want your child to be ready for the world they will inherit, what would the kindergarten classroom look like?

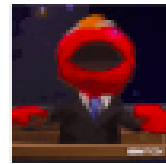
What parts from the blueprint would you want to see in action?

You will have 15 minutes to discuss this in break out groups.

Building Our Collective Thinking

A few facilitators will share one important idea that was discussed.

If you would like to add to the discussion, please use the chat. You may also use reactions and GIFs to show your response.



Each facilitator will have 2 minutes to share.

Our Goal

Our goal is simple.

*We want to redefine education **together** by accelerating learning for ALL students.*

This local engagement is the first step in **co-designing** and **co-creating** a new model that has the potential to transform K-5 education for the future.

Hopes and Fears

This is just the start of the conversation! As we near the end of our meeting, let's share:

- ❖ What is your greatest hope?
- ❖ What is your greatest fear?

You will have time to discuss this in small groups in your break out room.



hope & fear

***This process will be fully transparent.
All information will be shared on the
DOE website shortly.***

We will continue to create opportunities to hear from you directly starting with this survey.

<https://forms.gle/jZ6rCzdNiZUn2q8q7>

After this, you will have the opportunity to:

- Continue the conversation as a District community
- Engage in public comment
- Take part in in conversations happening across existing local community groups

Questions? Email us at BrilliantNYC@schools.nyc.gov

Let's Do This Together!

This engagement will be a human-centered approach that invites students, educators, and communities to inform the future of education *with* us.



STUDENTS

Listen, learn and build with students.



COMMUNITIES

Invite families to partner and give feedback.



HEAR FROM EVERYONE

Leverage existing groups to make sure everyone's voice is heard.