



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NYC COLLABORATES DEBUTS FIRST-EVER SCHOOL TOUR SERIES FOCUSED ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

***Charter and District Schools Unite to Share Best Practices to Better
Serve ELL Students in All NYC Public Schools***

November 12 , 2013 (New York, NY)— For the first time, [NYC Collaborates' School Study Tours](#) are bringing district and charter educators together to share best practices for serving English Language Learners (ELLs) – a segment of the student population that has too often been overlooked in public schools. This is the first time NYC Collaborates is devoting an entire series of tours to ELLs, reflecting a shared mission between district and charter schools.

The first of five tours takes place this Wednesday, November 13, in Queens at PS 89 Cypress Hills. Three of the five participating schools are district and two are charter. All five schools serve a high percentage of ELL students and have had many successes. The hosting schools will exhibit various classroom and curriculum models and innovative programming to participating educators.

There are over 150,000 ELLs in the city's public schools. Fewer than 1 in 2 (46.1%) graduate from high school. ELLs are twice as likely to live in a low-income household as English-speaking students. And yet research shows that once an English Language Learner becomes proficient in English, they outperform their native English speaking peers, having higher high school graduation rates in NYC.

“NYC Collaborates is committed to supporting teachers and leaders’ efforts to share best education practices. English language learners are a growing population with specific needs – we sought out schools who are clearly dedicated to making a difference in these students’ lives,” said Jaclyn Leffel, Director, NYC Collaborates.



Members of the press are invited to attend these tours. A detailed schedule is below; please contact [Jon Reinish](#) if you are interested in attending a particular tour.

SCHOOL TOUR SCHEDULE:

P.S. 089 Cypress Hills (PK-8, SE)
265 Warwick Street, New York, NY 11207
Wednesday, November 13, 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Family Life Academy Charter School (K-8)
14 W 170th St, New York, NY 10452
Thursday, November 14, 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Central Queens Academy Charter School (5-6)
55-30 Junction Blvd, Queens, NY 11373
Monday, November 18, 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM

M247 Dual Language Middle School (6-8, SE)
32 W 92nd St, New York, NY 10025
Tuesday, November 19, 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM

The International High School at LaGuardia Community College (9-12)
45-35 Van Dam St, New York, NY 11101
Thursday, November 21, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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About NYC Collaborates

NYC Collaborates creates opportunities for educators from all types of public schools to come together to share information and collaborate to improve student achievement. Our members believe that public schools—whether district or charter—have a collective and mutual obligation to ensure that all students in the City graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college, work and life.

Spearheaded by the New York City Charter School Center and New York City's Department of Education, NYC Collaborates is funded in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. To learn more visit: <http://www.nyccollaborates.org>.