

# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

2024-2025



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# WHO WE ARE

## Our Vision

CEI believes the school should be the center and driving force of public education, reform and innovation. Every child deserves a quality education.

## Our Mission

With a focus on equity and innovation, CEI works directly with school leaders, teachers, students and families to create high performing schools in under-resourced communities to help all children succeed.



## Our History

The Center for Educational Innovation (CEI) was established in 1989 to transform public education by shifting accountability from bureaucracies to schools as a means of generating authentic, “from the ground up” reform. Community-centered services that promote equity and opportunity, and innovative, high impact academic and extracurricular programs and events are the catalysts that make lasting change possible. To date, CEI has provided just such world class services and programs to over 2200 schools and impacted over 1 million students. CEI’s approach continues to build on the understanding that the school is the central hub for creating new life within our most neglected communities. CEI is proud of our continued work in pursuing excellence for all through innovative practices and programs, and in disrupting the inequalities that have historically limited opportunities for children in our most under-served communities. We will not stop until every child receives the high quality education they deserve and that enables them to be leaders in our 21st century world.

# Our Programs



Innovation Based on Experience: Providing a high quality education requires constant innovation. CEI is a clearinghouse for best practices, innovative services and programs, and continues to curate authentic, research-based methodologies with proven results. CEI staff members build on decades of successful practice in the public schools, serving as teachers, directors, principals and superintendents. CEI's leadership is comprised of passionate and diverse educators with experience at every level of public education from the classroom to district, city, state and federal organizations. This "on-the-ground" expertise allows CEI to provide valuable support to public schools to improve outcomes for all students. CEI's programs are aligned with NYCPS Chancellor Banks' "Four Pillars" for rapid school improvement and for building and sustaining trust in public education. Integral to our process is assessing, refining and sustaining what is working within the school to accelerate learning and to promote positive student outcomes. CEI identifies strategic ways to achieve a school or district's mission and goals by intentionally using DEIA/SEL/CRSE/TRC frameworks to ensure purposeful collaboration and school-wide, authentic community building.



## Reimagining The Student Experience

CEI Arts Education presents experiential, hands-on arts programs that engage students in major social issues and connect them with the greater community. Our DEIA/SEL work transforms learning by addressing student trauma, highlighting cultural narratives, fostering self-awareness, and maximizing community resources to support school leadership goals. Our unique AI/Robotics programs reimagine the learning experience and what “school” can be.



## Prioritizing Wellness And Its Link To Student Success

With a laser focus on DEIA/SEL/CRSE/TRC practices, CEI’s process centers everyone’s attention on the “whole child” – there is no “hierarchy” of importance – every aspect of a child’s development and health is equally explored and investigated to create action plans WITH students that promote their happiness, well-being and success in life.



## Highlighting, Scaling, Sustaining & Restoring What Works

Using an “assets-mapping” approach to build upon and sustain what is working in a school, and utilizing Bryk’s root cause analysis and PDSA cycles, CEI trains schools in how to accelerate student learning and how to bring those gains to scale across the entire school community.



## Engaging Families To Be True Partners

CEI’s DEIA/SEL focused approach promotes collaboration and inclusion by illustrating creative ways to pay attention to the voices of students and their families. Our CEI workshops are designed to increase parents/families’ understanding of the programs/systems within their school, leading to greater, more authentic involvement in their children’s education.

# WHOLE SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION

## Overview

With more than four decades of experience, CEI has been creating and redesigning public schools to achieve our vision of a public-school system where every child has access to a high quality, 21st century education. CEI works with all public schools, from district- based schools to charter public schools, to establish rigorous AND supportive learning environments that meet the needs of the students in their communities. Our support begins with an extensive “asset mapping” audit that focuses on strengths to be developed that results in a roadmap for our customized support to meet the specific needs of each school. These supports include: on-site, job embedded coaching as well as consultative support with experts in areas such as: curriculum and pedagogy, data analysis, school leadership and capacity building, organizational development (budget/ operations), human capital, regulatory compliance and marketing.



## Description of Services

**Instructional Design/Student-Centered Model Schools:** Audit of standards-aligned curricula in all content areas; standards-based grading; best practices in rigorous, brain-compatible instruction; CRSE; SEL/Trauma-Informed learning environments; RTI; and authentic, empowered student voice.

**Human Capital Management:** Executive coaching for administrators and staff; distributive leadership; talent recruitment, development, evaluation and retention; Professional Learning Communities(PLCs); student recruitment, enrollment and retention; authentic family engagement.

**Systems Thinking:** School vision, mission, core beliefs and Instructional Focus; data collection and analysis based on Bryk’s P-D-S-A cycles for rapid improvement; operational support (fiscal, HR, compliance, etc.); and school marketing and branding.

**Community Partnership:** University partnerships; local CBO outreach and engagement for enhanced student opportunities; elected officials outreach and engagement.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To enable school leaders to lead their communities with intention, innovation and excellence.
- » To develop common language among all stakeholders on the purpose, priorities and pathways for school excellence.
- » To develop key strategies to accelerate learning for all students.
- » To create strong action plans for improvement with authentic, measurable outcomes of student success, including indicators for SEL wellness as well as academic metrics.

For more information, please contact Virginia Connelly at: [vconnelly@the-cei.org](mailto:vconnelly@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)

# COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM

(One Day Diagnostic)

## Overview and Description of Services

For schools preparing for a NYCPS Quality Review or a DTSDE Review by NYSED, CEI has a special “Comprehensive School Review – One Day Diagnostic” service designed to provide valid information to principals on how to maximize strengths while addressing gaps within the school’s structures, practices and processes. Utilizing the Cambridge Quality Review rubric, our team of experts, who served as principals, superintendents, QR reviews and arbitrators, will delineate strong supports for student learning as well as evident barriers to student learning, combined with actionable next steps that will quickly and effectively foster growth in student learning outcomes. Included with this “diagnostic” service are additional visits to assist you and your team in monitoring for progress in implementation and in making any necessary adjustments. Our goal is to help you demonstrate your school’s uniqueness and strengths, and the paths you have created to optimize learning for all students.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To provide a non-evaluative lens to school leaders on the assets for and the barriers to accelerating student learning within their schools.
- » To provide additional support in implementing actionable next steps for growth.

**For more information, please contact Virginia Connelly at: [vconnelly@the-cei.org](mailto:vconnelly@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)**

# DEVELOPMENT OF CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING PATHWAYS

(Career Technical Education: CTE)

## Overview and Description of Services

School leaders interested in developing and improving CTE programs of study have enjoyed great success in partnering with CEI’s CTE pathways service. CEI provides school leaders and teachers with on-going, high quality support for developing and improving CTE programs through strategic planning, professional development and leadership coaching. CEI provides support for all aspects of CTE, including program design and development for electives, full sequences and NYSED CTE approved programs. Support is focused on:

- » Partnership Development (Industry, Colleges, Universities)
- » Accountability and Data Management (Technical Assessments, Scholarship)
- » Work Based Learning (WBL): Internships, Externships, site-based visits, etc.)
- » Teaching and Learning (Project-Based Learning (PBL), interdisciplinary learning, and literacy skill development)

## Intended Outcomes

- » Participants will learn how to develop academically integrated learning experiences for students through project based and interdisciplinary learning.
- » Participants will learn how to develop real world experiences for students through work-based learning and site-based learning.

**For more information, please contact Anthony Orzo at: [aorzo@the-cei.org](mailto:aorzo@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)**



# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

{including evaluation prep services (PPO Prep for NYCPS principals)}

## Overview and Description of Services

Our Leadership Development Service is designed to provide you with the necessary tools to accentuate the strengths of your school leadership as aligned with the MPPR (Multidimensional Principal Performance Rubric). Our CEI team is composed of highly respected former NYCPS principals and superintendents. Together with you, and any members of your team you include, we will help you design the narrative that maximizes the ways in which you address each of the MPPR indicators. Through our unique use of “asset-mapping” aligned to the MPPR Rubric, our team will conduct a thorough review and provide an in-depth analysis of your leadership structures, practices and processes, highlighting strengths but also illuminating areas for targeted, actionable development. Included in our service are additional visits to assist you in monitoring progress in implementing the action plan, and in making any necessary adjustments based on your actual evaluative visits by your superintendent. We are committed to your success and to the success of your students!

## Intended Outcomes

- » To enable school leaders to lead their communities with intention, innovation and excellence.
- » To provide a substantive review of leadership structures, practices and processes combined with specific, targeted, actionable ways to improve.
- » To provide continuing support in the implementation of action steps and to serve as a thought partner for the school leadership team.

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR A DIGITAL WORLD (AI Integration)

## Overview and Description of Services

Educational leaders are facing a seismic shift due to the emergence of AI. Rather than “preventing” its use, leaders can embrace AI’s advantages for our staff/students, while navigating pitfalls. School leaders need up-to-date information on how to accomplish this, what technology can be trusted and where to turn to stay current on developments. As AI progresses at breakneck speed, it’s imperative for school leaders to help their teachers navigate and build comfort around this new technology. CEI’s support centers on real, tangible solutions to everyday teaching challenges, including a workshop for your leadership team on a brief history of generative AI, to ground you in the essentials without drowning you in jargon. We also cover the issues of ethics and data privacy. But the heart of our support lies in providing actionable use cases that you can take back to your staff: practical applications designed to equip your teachers with the confidence and tools they need to embrace AI, enhance their classroom/instructional practice and enrich their students’ learning experiences.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To provide school leaders with the knowledge and resources they need to lead their schools through the integration of generative AI in their classrooms.

For more information, please contact Virginia Connelly at: [vconnelly@the-cei.org](mailto:vconnelly@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)

# SYNCGRADES

## (Data Integration)

### Overview and Description of Services

CEI-SyncGrades is a dynamic Learning Management System that integrates with every major SIS, and will allow you to do the following operations essential to school efficiency and effectiveness:

- » Automate the creation and maintenance of all Google Classrooms
- » Automatically add in new admits and remove transferred students, parents/guardians, and co-teachers assigned to a class
- » Define marking period properties (i.e. start and end dates, category names, and weights)
- » Bidirectional grading to and from Google Classroom (Assignments and Grades seamlessly move from Google Classroom to CEI-SyncGrades and from CEI-SyncGrades to Google Classroom)
- » Calculate student averages from assignments and grades generated in either Google Classroom or CEI-SyncGrades
- » Course and School-level Progress Reports
- » Report Card Generation
- » Anecdotal Logs
- » Analytics
- » Attendance
- » Automated Grade Notifications
- » Parent/Student Portal access to grades, attendance, and historical test data
- » Emails and Mass Communication Functions
- » SMS Text Messaging (Coming in the Fall)
- » Set and define grading templates and grades (1-4, 0-100, Pass/Fail, A-F, A-F +/-, 55-100 by 5s, and 55-100)

Furthermore, CEI-SyncGrades utilizes Advanced Asymmetric Encryption Standards, SSL Encryption, Robust Authentication, and Next-Generation Firewalls (NGFW) to protect and secure all Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

### Intended Outcomes



» Seamless Integration



» Google Classroom



» Grades, Attendance & Behaviors



» Remote Learning Ready

**For more information, please contact Paul Loboan at: [ploboan@the-cei.org](mailto:ploboan@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)**

# INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

## Overview and Description of Services

CEI Instructional Leadership/Teacher Development service is designed to build educator capacity to accelerate learning and improve student outcomes in collaboration with a school's leaders instructional vision and priorities. CEI consultants collaborate with school leaders to refine and adapt instructional vision and foci. Our goal is to assist you as the school leader in developing a high capacity team with clearly defined strategies for teacher improvement and avenues for leadership advancement (teacher, assistant principal and principal). Examples of workshops or consulting topics with school leaders have included:

- » Creating shared instructional focus and priority areas
- » Effective and efficient communication and decision-making
- » Educating with an Equity Lens (The 5 Pursuits – Muhammad)
- » SEL, wellness and trauma-informed practice in the classroom
- » Creating a strong literacy culture
- » Building strong conceptual understanding in Math and STEM classrooms
- » Effective use of Danielson for teacher growth
- » Leadership capacity building

## Intended Outcomes

- » To build/enhance internal structures that promote teacher development and advancement by fine-tuning administrative leadership and instructional vision.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES (PLCS) (including Data Inquiry using Bryk's PDSA Cycles)

## Overview and Description of Services

CEI specializes in working with individuals and school teams to gain a thorough understanding of the why, what and how of PLCs, as well as build a "tool box" of research, protocols and templates that will enable your school teams to put what they've learned to immediate use. This year-long service encompasses the entire spectrum of what PLCs are (as distinguished from other "teams"), how they use data to shape the work, and why building a school-wide collaborative culture is critical to accelerate student learning. We dive deeply into building better communication and decision-making as PLCs, ensuring stakeholder voice and understanding the dynamics of group development and how to overcome the typical "Five Dysfunctions of a Team." We explore thoroughly Bryk's Improvement Science and PDSA cycles of inquiry (using your school's real time data from classroom practice and assessments) and implement protocols, templates and action plans that sustain the work.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To enable the successful creation and sustainability of a collaborative PLC culture, focused on dialogue and data analysis, that ensures all children receive instruction, intervention and enrichment matched to their needs.

For more information, please contact Virginia Connelly at: [vconnelly@the-cei.org](mailto:vconnelly@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)

# PARENTS AS PARTNERS

(Building and Sustaining Parent/Family Engagement)

## Overview and Description of Services

CEI will collaborate with schools to design and implement highly effective programs and initiatives where parents, school staff, other community agencies and organizations are committed to actively work together to support and improve the academic and social emotional development of all students. CEI provides support for parent engagement programs that includes workshops, webinars, activities and events for school staff, parents, students and community members, such as:

- » Special Activities and Events for Families
- » Asset Mapping of Community Resources
- » Attendance Improvement
- » Collaboration with Local Agencies/CBOs: Partnership Planning and Development
- » College and Career Readiness
- » Community School Forum
- » Creating Safe and Welcoming School Environments
- » Diversity, Equity and Inclusion within Our School Community
- » Childhood Development – from Toddler to Adolescent
- » Health and Nutrition
- » Job-Embedded Learning Opportunities and Career Exploration
- » Leadership Training for Parents
- » Parent Engagement and Empowerment Workshops (based, in part, on parent interest surveys)
- » Physical and Mental Health and SEL/Wellness Supports
- » CEI's Digital Explorations: FACT Academy, Robotics and Coding and E-Sports
- » CEI's Digital Discovery: AI and the Future for You and Your Children
- » Content Specific Teaching and Learning Info Sessions for Parents
- » Yoga and Physical Fitness



## Intended Outcomes

- » To provide parents/families with a better understanding of developmental stages of children's social, emotional, physical and intellectual wellbeing and how to positively impact each stage.
- » To increase parents/families' awareness of how to develop personal skills, such as self-esteem, self-awareness, decision-making, relationship-building and cultural awareness.
- » To actively engage parents/families in the life of the school to increase student attendance and achievement.
- » To provide workshops that create networks among parents to develop/enhance the entire school community's skill sets and sense of belonging.

**For more information, please contact Anthony Orzo at: [aorzo@the-cei.org](mailto:aorzo@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)**

# AI/DIGITAL LITERACY

(AI Integration for Teachers and Students)



## Overview and Description of Services

The “AI Integration for Teachers” initiative offers a tailored approach to help teachers effectively incorporate AI into their educational environments. CEI’s AI program identifies and prioritizes the unique needs of each school, ensuring that AI solutions address their specific challenges. This platform-agnostic approach avoids the common pitfalls seen in past technology rollouts, such as those during the COVID-19 pandemic, wherein teachers had the directive but not the resources or tools to implement new technologies. CEI’s AI program includes creating

workshops, as well as small group coaching that cover essential topics such as:

- » **Basics of Generative AI:** A foundational overview of how generative AI works and its potential applications.
- » **Ethics and Responsibility:** A discussion on the ethical use of AI in education, focusing on fairness, transparency, and safeguarding student privacy.
- » **Generative AI in Education:** Practical examples of how AI can enhance learning, streamline tasks, and improve student engagement in real-world educational settings.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To enable teachers to gain the knowledge and confidence to use AI tools responsibly and effectively, and tailored to the unique needs of their schools and classrooms.

For more information, please contact Virginia Connelly at: [vconnelly@the-cei.org](mailto:vconnelly@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)

# ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS



## Overview and Description of Services

CEI Arts Education is nationally recognized for its innovative, hands-on, arts integration programs that use the arts to teach the academic curriculum and strengthen social emotional learning skills. All CEI Arts Education programs are aligned with academic and arts standards, including NYCPS’ Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts. CEI Arts Education professional learning workshops, coaching and modeling show classroom teachers how to use the arts to directly teach the core subjects. Additionally, CEI Arts Education program works with a school’s

art teacher to show them how to create academic-based art projects. All participating teachers are eligible to receive CTLE credits for CEI’s Arts Education programs.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To learn how to utilize arts-based instructional strategies to directly teach core content and strengthen SEL skills.

For more information, please contact CEI Arts Education team at [artsed1@the-cei.org](mailto:artsed1@the-cei.org)  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)

# DEIA/SEL/CRSE WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF

## Overview and Description of Services

CEI brings its focus on innovation and equity into the DEIA/SEL/CRSE/TRC (Trauma-Informed Classrooms) realm in order to foster courageous conversations with educators about pluralistic identity. Through a series of workshops, CEI's leading experts will support educators through the process of how to:

- » Holistically engage with diverse cultural narratives.
- » Demystify personal bias.
- » Learn inclusive/trauma-responsive language to build and sustain a welcoming school community for all.

SEL professional development workshops are focused on cultivating leadership, enhancing community building, and curating authentic self-awareness skills for educators to further support school wide objectives. The focus of CEI's work is based on NYSED's CRSE Framework and aligned directly with new NYSED guidance that seeks to facilitate the following:

- » Ensure teaching and learning reflect principles of DEIA and provide opportunities for all students to make educational progress.
- » Address punitive student disciplinary policies and practices that result in disproportionality.
- » Ensure effective policies and procedures to prevent and address bullying and harassment.

Each learning objective outlined below is a "building block" for schools to achieve this threefold focus. Further, all of our learning objectives are based in research-based frameworks that reflect DEIA/SEL/CRSE/TRC themes to engage with students and staff in a meaningful, authentic way.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To utilize NYSED's CRSE Framework to develop a common understanding and a diversified language of DEIA/SEL/TRC and incorporate it into classroom and school-wide culture.
- » To promote trauma-responsive and culturally responsive competence.
- » To increase self-awareness skills to limit bias practices within our adult interactions and with adult to student interactions to ensure strong connections and collegiality.
- » To increase self-awareness skills to limit bias practices within peer-to-peer, student interactions to ensure strong connections and meaningful engagement, and to eliminate bullying/harassment.
- » To learn how to skillfully intersect DEIA/SEL/TRC components with student college readiness and family planning support.
- » To enhance leadership practice through DEIA/SEL/TRC tools that can positively influence work accountability, student responsibility, fair and equitable disciplinary practices, and time/task management to meet the diverse educational mandates of the school and the community it serves.

**For more information, please contact Dr. Shana Eutsay at: [seutsay@the-cei.org](mailto:seutsay@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)**

# ELL/MLL/SIFE/MIGRANT STUDENT SERVICES

## Overview

CEI supports New York City and State's linguistically and culturally diverse educational community. CEI proposes to monitor, plan, and coordinate cohesive efforts to meet the educational, social, and emotional needs of current P-12 MLL/SIFE/migrant and newly arrived immigrant students. CEI's expert team provides extensive executive educational leadership, knowledgeable policy, collaborative professional development, and a growth mindset to any/all statewide school community constituent groups: superintendents, principals, supervisors, directors, educators, assistants, staff, students, and families. It is our goal to explicitly guide and support growing linguistically and culturally diverse populations, and effectively train everyone who is responsible for the educational equity, instructional practice, and academic performance of our students. As instructional experts (PreK-Post Secondary), we possess a thorough transformative vision for academic excellence. Our expertise is in openly providing varied leadership services for the benefit of N-12 students (GEN ED, ELL, MLL, DLL, SWD, SIFE, and New Arrivals), educators, school leaders, families, and communities. Our method includes utilizing experienced administrators, educators, supervisors/directors, coaches, grant writers & evaluators, and curriculum developers who possess extensive proficiency in Language Acquisition leadership, policy, and city/state/federal regulations.

## Description of Services

### Establish an Action Plan that includes:

- » Training staff in the registration process
- » Conducting language/content pre-assessments in English and Home Language
- » Recruiting, selecting, and training instructional staff
- » Preparing classroom materials and developing key strategies to support all learners, such as PBL and formative, on-the-spot assessments
- » Implementing the NYSED CR-PART 154 schedules for service delivery
- » Developing Model Classrooms (Bilingual, New Arrivals, ENL, Dual Language, SIFE)
- » Providing consistent PD on curriculum development, scaffolding strategies, differentiation techniques, assessments, RTI, OLE, and SEL
- » Conducting periodic reviews of Annual Comprehensive Education Plan goals

## Intended Outcomes

- » To increase participants' knowledge of and ability to implement new practices that will accelerate student language acquisition and learning.
- » To refine a school's ability to collect relevant documents, complete HILS and administer NYSITELL or other assessments that provide information on student language capacities and background.
- » To amplify a school's ability to adhere to K-12 CR-Part 154 instructional models for Bilingual, ENL, Sheltered, Migrant and New Arrival students.
- » To enhance a school's ability to provide emotional support and intervention to address/mitigate trauma.
- » To strengthen the creation of the Language Allocation Policy detailing Native Language and English instruction in ways that exceed mandates and truly promote student learning and language acquisition.

For more information, please contact Anthony Orzo at: [aorzo@the-cei.org](mailto:aorzo@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES

(and/or Individual/Small Group Coaching)

## Overview

CEI PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (PL) is designed to build educator capacity to accelerate learning and improve student outcomes. CEI's PL engages educators through job-embedded coaching, mentoring and workshops focused on best practices that accelerate student learning. CEI has a team of high-quality experts that cover the gamut of content areas across K-12 classrooms, as well as SEL/wellness and trauma-informed practice. The intent is to provide teachers with the opportunity to grow their knowledge and sharpen their skills, leading to better student learning outcomes.

## Description of Services

Examples of Professional Learning and Consulting for the classroom teacher include:

- » Authentic Assessment that Guides Instruction
- » EC Literacy and Numeracy
- » Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP)
- » Constructing Mathematical Discourse
- » Reading and Writing Practices for All Content Areas
- » Next Generation Standards: Key Shifts in NYS Science/STEAM assessments
- » Standards-Based Mastery Grading
- » Rigorous Instruction and DoK
- » Neuroscience and Effective Classroom Instruction
- » Culturally Responsive Teacher (The 5 Pursuits – Muhammad)
- » Growth Mindset and Executive Function
- » Trauma-Informed Praxis: Creating “Safe Spaces”
- » Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Differentiated Instruction (DI) and Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)



## Intended Outcomes

- » To increase participants' knowledge of and ability to implement best practices that will accelerate student learning.
- » To create a “common language” among all educators within a school/district on what constitutes effective pedagogy and assessment.
- » To accelerate student learning!

For more information, please contact Anthony Orzo at: [aorzo@the-cei.org](mailto:aorzo@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)



# ARTS EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

## Overview

CEI Arts Education is nationally recognized for its innovative, hands-on arts integration programs that use the arts to teach core content and strengthen social emotional learning skills. All CEI Arts Education programs are aligned with NYS Academic and Arts Standards, DLM Essential Elements and NYCPS' Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts and serve all student populations.



## Description of Services

**Students:** Student arts residencies include arts-integrated programs in visual art, music, dance, theater and spoken word. From creating geometric mobiles and animal-diversity songwriting, to multicultural dances and historical-fiction playwriting, all programs connect the arts with academic content and engage preK-12 students. CEI Arts Education also offers a series of social-action programs that empower young people to have a voice on social issues through the power of art. These engaging programs include: CEI's signature program BENCHMARKS — in which students create murals on benches for display in NYC Parks citywide, as well as WALLS4CHANGE, SONGS4CHANGE, DRAMA4CHANGE, WORDS4CHANGE, and DANCE4CHANGE. All social-action programs feature Guest Artist visits and a citywide event.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To empower student voices on community issues.
- » To increase student awareness and understanding of the arts.
- » To increase student cultural awareness – their own and other cultures.
- » To utilize the arts as a means of improving self-expression as well as academic enrichment.



## Description of Services

**Families:** CEI Arts Education also presents parent/family engagement programs that bring parents into the school community and include educational arts projects that parents can replicate with their children. There is a wide range of programming including creating board games, jewelry making, Latin dance, percussion and poetry slams, among many others.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To provide meaningful engagement with the arts for families in their homes and to bring families into the school community.

For more information, please contact CEI Arts Education team at [artsed1@the-cei.org](mailto:artsed1@the-cei.org) or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)

# PROJECT BOOST

(Building Options And Opportunities For Students)

## Overview

Building Options and Opportunities for Students is CEI's signature enrichment program which helps students gain the skills and talents necessary for long term growth and success. The Project BOOST model provides academic support, social and emotional skills support, cultural enrichment and community engagement. Project BOOST provides character building experiences, nurturing individual aspirations and communicating the possibilities for unlimited success, regardless of background. Academic support includes interactive, hands-on STEAM instruction, coding and robotics, academic goal setting, and college visits. As with all of CEI's services, the overarching goal is to disrupt inequities and reduce barriers to opportunity for all students.



## Description of Services

The program includes customized museum learning experiences aligned with curriculum through partnerships with institutions such as the Bronx Zoo and the New York Hall of Science. Project BOOST provides social emotional support and teaches social skills, including age-appropriate activities focused on personal goal setting, team building, character education, and employment skills. BOOST is designed to serve the school and community's needs and can occur before, during or after the school day, and on nights and weekends. The experiences that students gain in these programs are often life-altering for them.

## Intended Outcomes

**Among the aspects of the programs that students highlight as keenly important to them are:**

- » The unique experiences that they feel are otherwise beyond their reach.
- » The value of gaining one-on-one mentoring and guidance.
- » A sense of increased self-esteem.
- » Gaining positive values and understanding the importance of personal academic commitment and achievement, especially in developing one's own college/career pathway.

**For more information, please contact Johnnie Singleton at: [jsingleton@the-cei.org](mailto:jsingleton@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)**

# PROJECT BOOST: EARLY STAGES

## Overview

CEI's Early Stages Program is perhaps the most well-known and longest tradition within CEI for providing traditional public schools and public charter schools students with the life-changing experience of attending live performances of theater, dance and music. Students, often with family members, are introduced to a new part of NYC, experience renowned performing arts venues, such as Broadway theaters, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and have the opportunities to reflect about their own lives through discussions and writing about the performance experience.



## Description of Services

Students attend regularly scheduled performances so they experience live theater in a “real-world” situation and gain confidence to return on their own. Every group of students is greeted when they arrive at the theater to answer questions and ensure that they will feel comfortable. We provide an orientation for our primary contact person at each participating school. We also provide basic information on theatergoing, as well as specific background on performances, and work with teachers so that the theater experience can be integrated into the classroom. Students are required to write their response to the performance and teachers complete an online questionnaire about the experience. Through the writing and guidance material, we support discussions and other post-performance activities that enhance the meaningfulness of the experience.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To ensure that public school students of all social and economic backgrounds find a sense of belonging at the theater.
- » To provide support to school staff so that they are comfortable and informed chaperones and can integrate the theater experience into their classrooms.
- » To validate students' responses to the theater experience so that it continues to be meaningful and memorable, thereby growing the next generation of theatergoers!

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# PROJECT BOOST: HIGH IMPACT TUTORING/ PROJECT RESET

## Overview and Description of Services

CEI's academic enrichment and intervention services provide much needed small group and individual coaching and social emotional support for students while reinforcing and expanding the work of classroom teachers. Whether designed as synchronous, remote learning or "elbow-to-elbow," in person instruction, the goal is to reinforce and enhance students' learning strengths while also addressing gaps in their learning. Our instructional coaches are experienced with deep knowledge in all content areas and SHSAT, SAT/ACT and AP test prep. CEI has partnered with the Reset Group for their Project Reset Regents Prep program that provides extensive tutoring for Middle School students on the Algebra 1 and Living Environments Regents exams. This is a year-long program that includes after school and Saturday sessions. Districts 5, 13, 17, 23 and 29 schools are currently sought for pilots.

## Intended Outcomes

- » Through participation in our high impact tutoring services, students will demonstrate greater competency and confidence in their subject matter.
- » Students participating in our high impact tutoring services will improve their student outcomes as measured by standardized assessments of learning (including Algebra 1 and Living Environment Regents for 8th grade students).
- » Students participating in our high impact tutoring services will significantly improve their chances of enrolling in one of the NYCPS' premier high schools.

# PROJECT BOOST: POSSIBILITY DEVELOPMENT (COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS APP)

## Overview and Description of Services

Drawing from the fields of person-centered and cognitive-behavioral counseling, and the developmental strategy of scaffolding for skill development, Dr. Mike Nakkula's "Possibility Development" has five discrete steps:

- (1) Exploring personal interests;
- (2) Prioritizing interests to pursue, based on a values assessment of what matters most;
- (3) Planning for action, including establishing realistic short and long term goals;
- (4) Putting the plan into action, starting with the attainment of short-term goals, while learning how this process relates to longer-term goals; and
- (5) Assessing progress toward goal achievement and potentially changing course if needed.

Through our program, students learn to achieve what they care about most by learning and applying the steps of Possibility Development to the common goal of College and Career readiness. Our app-based program gives students agency over their educational journey as they visualize and then create a plan to achieve their post-secondary school goals. CEI supports every student in your school/district by presenting the program through an in-person, interactive presentation to onboard and motivate your students. Through ongoing support, weekly homework activities, and parent engagement tools students are guided each step of the way as they create a plan for their future success.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To teach students how to achieve what they care about most.
- » To enable students to create a plan around their college and career goals.

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or view our webpage on these services at [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)

# PROJECT BOOST: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES EXPLORATION

## AI/VR (Virtual Reality) Discovery



### Overview and Description of Services

CEI's AI course designed for 8th graders integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to enhance learning across multiple subjects, while also introducing students to coding and exploring STEM career pathways. The curriculum is designed to build digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, while helping students understand how AI differs from traditional programming methods. Each week, students will also engage in discussions about various STEM careers, with a new pathway highlighted weekly, expanding their awareness of potential future

opportunities. The course begins with an introduction to digital tools such as Google Classroom, Google Drive, and ChatGPT. Students will learn how to navigate these platforms to support their academic work and enhance communication between school and home. One of the core foci of the course is the integration of coding education. Students will be introduced to basic coding concepts, learning to write and debug simple programs. The course will then delve into how AI functions differently from traditional coding, emphasizing how AI uses data and algorithms to generate responses, rather than relying on predefined instructions. This comparison helps students grasp the flexibility of AI versus the structured nature of traditional programming.

Another unit focuses on creative problem-solving with AI, where students use ChatGPT to generate innovative solutions for real-world challenges. They will develop a proposal for an innovation center at their school, using AI to iterate designs and refine ideas. The goal is to demonstrate how AI can support the design process by generating and modifying solutions based on specific criteria and goals. They will use AI to brainstorm, draft and organize their ideas as well as generate visual summaries, timelines, diagrams and infographics. This has an easier crossover to creating visual representations to support their written work, helping to clarify and synthesize complex topics in subjects like science and history.

The course also emphasizes the role of AI in bridging communication gaps between schools and communities. Students will create AI-assisted newsletters, translate materials for non-English-speaking families, and propose ways to increase community engagement using AI. This unit highlights how AI tools can simplify complex information and make school resources more accessible.

### Intended Outcomes

- » To enhance students' cognitive processes such as summarizing, comparing, analyzing and organizing information for presentation on real world applications.
- » To provide a comprehensive introduction to AI, coding, and STEM career pathways.
- » To equip students with essential skills for academic success and future job readiness, by preparing them to navigate both traditional and emerging tech fields.

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# PROJECT BOOST: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES EXPLORATION

## Coding

### Overview and Description of Services

CEI's coding program is designed to break down students' common misconception that tech isn't for them. Through CEI's Code Your Own Video Game Program, all students learn how to code and create their video games. Students are led through the basic programming concepts, using a block coding infrastructure, as they work through all the fundamentals of coding. Students learn that not only are video games fun, but they are also multidisciplinary. The games students build incorporate math, physics and art in meaningful and enjoyable ways. What is especially exciting for the students is that by the end of the course, they have built their own game they can play and share with friends and family. And, they've gained the confidence that they can succeed in STEM!

### Intended Outcomes

Our coding program will provide students with:

- » A basic understanding of the fundamentals of coding.
- » The experience of building their own shareable video game from scratch!
- » Confidence that they can succeed at coding and STEM.

## Robotics (including 1st Lego League)

### Overview and Description of Services

The CEI Robotics Program is designed to empower students by demonstrating that robotics and coding are accessible to everyone, helping to break the misconception that STEM is only for a select few. The primary goal is to foster a lifelong love for STEM by immersing students in engaging, hands-on learning experiences. The program is suitable for grades 3-12, and typically runs over 8-16 sessions, each lasting 90 minutes., but is very flexible. culminates in student group building and coding a boxing robot and competing in a boxing competition with their peers.

Program highlights include:

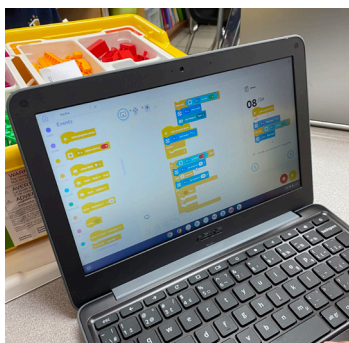
- » STEM Immersion: Students build, test, and troubleshoot their robots, developing a deep understanding of STEM concepts as they progress through the program.
- » Multidisciplinary Skills:
  - » Engineering: Students learn to identify robot parts and their functions while exploring real-world applications.
  - » Coding: Through block-style software, students enhance their critical and sequential thinking by learning to code their robots.
  - » Design: Using the Design Process framework, students connect system design with practical needs, fostering creativity and problem-solving skills.
  - » Collaboration & Communication: Students work in teams to tackle design challenges, developing collaboration and communication skills.
- » Teacher Professional Development: CEI offers training for teachers, equipping them to teach robotics and coding while building a comprehensive curriculum.
- » 1st Lego League: CEI coaches can facilitate a 1st Lego League team at your school!

### Intended Outcomes

- » The CEI Robotics Program is designed to inspire, engage, and equip students with valuable skills for the future, making STEM accessible and exciting for all.

# PROJECT BOOST: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES EXPLORATION

## FACT (Families And Children Together) Coding Academy



### Overview and Description of Services

In this 6-week course, students along with their caregivers will work together to build their own video games and learn to code. **No previous experience is needed!** The program begins with teams creating an account on Scratch ([scratch.mit.edu](https://scratch.mit.edu)) and then choosing a theme for their video game (including, but not limited to, their hero, background, and enemies). Students in teams with their caregivers are then instructed on how to build their games as they learn the basics of coding. Together, teams will get their characters to move, jump, interact with other

characters, collect points, gain power, and fight end bosses. Recommended age for students (Grades 3-8) for adults 18-108. The course is virtual and requires a laptop or an iPad and an internet connection and takes place 10am-noon on 6 consecutive Saturdays. Each class will build on the previous one so attendance at all sessions is highly recommended.

### Intended Outcomes

- » Students and their caregivers will also be introduced to the basics of animations as they create characters that come to life; by learning and using digital design and art.
- » Physics and math will also be incorporated as their heroes navigate a 2D world, jump, and throw objects.
- » Students and their caregivers will be presented with different jobs and careers that can be possible by learning how to code.

## Drones Programs

### Overview and Description of Services

CEI is pleased to partner with several organizations (such as “Drone Cadets”) that offer drone development and drone piloting to schools. Drone programs, whether in person or online, allow students to explore the basics of aerodynamics and drone design, testing and flight. Students will understand that there is an art and a science to creating just the right design for just the right conditions to pilot and reach optimum speed. Students also learn to code, using Betaflight Configurator, an open-source platform that can continually adjust to match the skill of the pilot. Flight missions and hands-on activities enhance the learning experience. Through Virtual Reality, we can also replicate a wide range of real world situations that a pilot would encounter to further develop piloting skills.

### Intended Outcomes

- » To communicate a high comfort level with basic drone flight, including “soft skills” such as hand-eye coordination, communication and listening, self-confidence, critical thinking and troubleshooting.
- » To use safety and flight procedures including the role of the team, navigational directional terminology, and a Pre-Flight Checklist
- » To understand and implement the basic FAA rules for drone piloting.

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or view our webpage on these services at [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)

# PROJECT BOOST: ESPORTS

## Overview

CEI ESPORTS is an innovative program designed to bridge the gap between traditional education and the burgeoning field of Esports. CEI Esports strives to give students not only essential knowledge of the history of various sectors of Esports but also create a classroom culture that reinforces the social-emotional skills the students are not practicing while gaming at home with their friends. More specifically, CEI Esports works with the students to strengthen their interpersonal communication, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills needed to succeed not only in Esports but also in their everyday life.



## Description of Services

CEI Esports presents a unique and extensive curriculum created solely by our CEI Esports team and focused not only on gaming skills and concepts but on character building (determination, perseverance, anger/stress management, etc.), conflict resolution, communication, goal setting and decision-making, and leadership. CEI Esports provides these lessons within the context of our after-school competitive esports programs. In addition, CEI has the staff and experience to provide schools with their own customized Esports Team and accompanying Esports Lab/Arena. Finally, the CEI Esports program continuously works towards building not just better students, but better people who will have the character and knowledge to succeed in college and/or any other ventures they may have after high school.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To provide schools with the appropriate equipment and training to be able to play and compete in some of the most popular titles, casually and competitively.
- » To expose students to competitive Esports in various titles, including NBA 2K, Super Smash Bros, and FIFA, with the opportunity to formalize school teams.
- » To provide a one-of-a-kind Esports program that includes lessons on topics such as the History of Esports, Gamer Health, Evolution of Consoles, Digital Citizenship, Branding and Streaming (just to name a few!)
- » To work with students on social-emotional learning topics such as: building stamina and confidence, leadership, effective communication and sportsmanship.

For more information, please contact jschmeltzer at: [jschmeltzer@the-cei.org](mailto:jschmeltzer@the-cei.org).  
or view our webpage on these services at: [www.the-cei.org](http://www.the-cei.org)



# PROJECT BOOST: LITERARY DEVELOPMENT

## Read to Lead

### Overview

CEI's Read to Lead is a platform offering a supplemental literacy curriculum with career exploration, academic and social emotional skill development in the form of unique literacy learning games set in diverse professional worlds. These digital learning games, personalized pathways and the supporting curriculum empower middle school students by putting them in the role of the boss, where they must read closely, tackle authentic workplace challenges and make evidence-based decisions. Through our immersive virtual workplace experiences, students improve reading and writing skills, acquire and apply essential 21st century skills and imagine new possibilities for themselves to achieve new-found ambitions. (<https://the-cei.org/read-to-lead/>)

### Description of Services

- » Reimagining the student experience through Career Pathways (career-connected learning and pathways) highlighting a series of career exploration experiences.
- » Building strong plans for every student to achieve college/career readiness, especially through leadership development as they complete tasks that replicate work leadership and authentic decision-making.
- » Prioritizing wellness and its link to student success by increasing a school's capacity to provide quality wellness practices (SEL, trauma-informed, mindfulness, self-expression/advocacy) that are scientifically researched and culturally responsive.

### Intended Outcomes

- » To explore 5 career pathways (Journalism, Public Service, Medicine, Pharmacy, Asset Management) with students, with exposure to 25+ additional careers.
- » To foster student agency as they become the "boss" in an immersive day at work.
- » To build students' literacy by focusing on background knowledge and vocabulary (particularly, "world of work" concepts and terms) and on improving comprehension.
- » To gather and analyze real-time student data and insights.

## Storyworld

### Overview and Description of Services

CEI has partnered with STORYWORLD, an online platform for enhancing literacy development, particularly among early and/or emergent readers. StoryWorld's use of translanguaging techniques which honors native languages while scaffolding English literacy skills, is unique. The increase in native languages in NYC schools beyond Spanish calls for appropriately translated content in multiple languages. StoryWorld honors 12 different languages (with opportunities to add more as needed) and allows students to fluidly move from their native language to English (or vice versa) to build confidence and understanding, as well as literacy growth. StoryWorld's multimodal activities allow ELL's to gradually build their reading, listening, speaking and writing skills. StoryWorld weaves together language comprehension and phonics—focusing on the mastery of one story a week. Each story is paired with phonics lessons to build a strong foundation in literacy (96 lessons.) (<https://storyworld.us>)

### Intended Outcomes

- » To provide an online enrichment/intervention program that significantly improves student literacy skills and development within an engaging, multi-lingual experience
- » To provide educators with real time data on student progress in literacy development

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# PROJECT BOOST: RISE (COLLEGE STUDENTS AS MIDDLE SCHOOL MENTORS)

RISE: Response-ability+Integrity+Self-Advocacy+Excellence

## Overview

The RISE program is designed to match two college students (one male, one female) for 8–12 hours/week at a middle school to serve as “mentors” to MS students in order to develop student-centered initiatives such as:

- » Student Council or Student Government Organization (SGO)
- » Peer Mediation/Conflict Resolution
- » Restorative Circles
- » Community Service/Community Engagement Projects

## Description of Services

The College Mentors are vetted (interview, references, background check/fingerprint clearance) prior to working in the schools. They must make a commitment to the full year, or 30 weeks (15 per semester). They must be in the school for 8-12 hours/week (actual hours determined by the school). Training will be provided prior to the start of their mentoring in the schools, and at mandatory trainings through the year, covering topics such as: Adolescent Development; Communication Skills and Active Listening; Goal Setting, Action Planning and Work Project Management; Time Management; De-escalation Strategies and Mindfulness Practices; Personal Boundaries, Confidentiality, and Self-Disclosure; The CASEL framework for Social-Emotional Learning (SEL); Peer Mediation/Conflict Resolution; Restorative Circles; and Robert’s Rules of Order. School leaders will determine the area(s) of focus for the College Mentors within a given school. Schools will be asked to select a member of the staff to serve as their facilitator/advisor (main point of contact). This staff member will: meet initially with the College Mentors to develop priorities and goals (approved by the Principal); develop a process for dealing with urgent situations (approved by the Principal); meet bi-weekly for a check-in with the College Mentors for at least 30 minutes; and sign off monthly on timesheets and activity logs. The College Mentors will be supervised by staff from CEI and will be visited at least twice per month at the school site. These CEI staff members will be available at all times to the designated Advisor or the Principal to discuss the Mentors, the program or any other issue or concern.

## Intended Outcomes

- » To provide a unique opportunity for college students and middle school students to interact, and to collaborate on and implement programs that are authentic to their lives and their communities.
- » To free up time and staff within the school for academics and other pursuits by having the college student mentors assume responsibility for student advocacy programs, events and functions.
- » To create a collaborative network of student leaders within and across districts to exchange ideas, present projects and grow from interacting with one another.

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