



ROADS Charter High Schools

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Dear Community Partner,

At this point in the year you can probably identify young people who are off-track and likely to repeat the grade. These students are at risk of becoming disconnected and dropping out. Every year, thousands of students drop out of high school or fail to be promoted out of middle school. There are traditionally very few options for these students - GED programs typically don't accept 15 or 16 year olds and most transfer high schools won't accept students with less than 11 credits.

ROADS Charter High Schools (Brooklyn and Bronx) are an option for these students.

ROADS Charter High Schools are designed for over-age, under-credited students, whether or not they have been promoted out of middle school. Please help over-age under-credited students succeed by sharing the news about ROADS Charter High Schools with your young people, families, and colleagues. ROADS Charter High Schools are the best option to provide a peer setting where students can get back on track and graduate with a Regents diploma. At ROADS, we provide the socio-emotional and behavioral support as well as career-readiness opportunities to ensure that every student is provided with the tools to succeed academically, personally and professionally.

ROADS is now conducting open recruitment and rolling admissions for Academic Year 2014-15 directly from our waitlist. All eligible applications received will be placed on our admissions waitlist in order of the submission time and date, and new students will be accepted to ROADS on a rolling basis. We anticipate pulling from the waitlist in June, over the summer, and in advance of the Spring 2015 term. Please encourage young people to **apply now to increase likelihood of Fall 2014 admission.**

To be eligible for admission at ROADS, students must:

- Have been born in 1998 or 1999
- Have already completed the 7th grade
- Be one or more grades behind
- Have 11 or fewer high school credits

ROADS Charter High Schools admissions process gives preference to students who are in homeless or in temporary housing, in foster care or child protective services, and involved with the juvenile or criminal justice system.

Eligible students should [Apply Online](#) today. If you have questions or would like to receive more information on schools contact our admissions office at enroll@roadsschools.org or call 718-280-9189.

If you are interested in having a ROADS representative present to your school or agency please complete our [Admissions Contact Form](#).

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Gisele C. Shorter
Managing Director, Youth Engagement & Partnerships

Frequently asked Questions about ROADS

What are ROADS Charter High Schools?

ROADS Charter High Schools are a network of free, public, community schools committed to serving students who are over-age and under-credited to ensure that all students graduate high school thoroughly prepared for success academically, professionally and personally. To be eligible for ROADS, students must be 15 or 16 years old, have 11 or fewer high school credits, completed the 7th grade and have been held back at least once. For context, in NYC you need 44 credits to graduate with a diploma, and transfer high schools (our closest district equivalent) take in 17 years olds who have *at least* 22 credits.

What is different about ROADS than any other charter school?

While charter schools around the country use a random lottery to determine admission, ROADS prioritizes admission for students who face a range of barriers to academic success. Specifically those involved in the juvenile or criminal justice system, students who are homeless or in transitional housing, or involved in foster care or Child Protective Services. Additionally ROADS has a longer school day and our school year is longer than other schools, including a mandatory 4-week summer engagement session.

Where are ROADS schools?

Our two schools are in the South Bronx and East New York, Brooklyn, and currently have 400 students enrolled. We are chartered for up to 250 students in each school (500 total) and plan to grow in NYC and in other cities in the future. Our schools opened their doors in August of 2012 and have completed one full academic year to date.

How does ROADS approach its mission of preparing students for success?

1. **Strong relationships** with caring adults who support students 100% of the time.
2. **Year-round programs** to meet students where they are and provide individualized support.
3. **Intensive social & emotional supports** to address and overcome immediate barriers to learning.
4. **Instruction in personal development and career readiness skills** that lead to well-rounded success.
5. **Individual Life Plans (ILPs)** with short and long-term goals for all students.

Why is a network of schools like ROADS necessary?

In the US today, over 1,000 students drop out of high school every day. Over 6 million youth (ages 16-24) are estimated to be out of school and not working in the US today (15% of all youth). For each single youth not engaged in school or work, collectively known as 'Opportunity Youth,' the full annual cost to society is \$37,500 (almost \$1 million over a lifetime). ROADS is necessary to ensure that the students most at risk of dropping out remain connected to school and can plan for post-high school success.

What does the ROADS student body look like?

In our first year, the student body of ROADS reflected our enrollment priorities:

- 43% Involved with Child Protective Services
- 38% Court Involved
- 37% have IEPs (Individualized Education Plans / Special Education students)
- 13% Homeless or Transitionally Housed

Are students attending school more now that they are at ROADS?

Before ROADS, over 60% of ROADS students were chronically truant for each of their three previous years. Now, ROADS Bronx is outperforming the peer transfer high school average for year-on-year attendance improvement and

the percentage of ROADS Brooklyn students attending 75% or more has increased by 24% compared to their previous year of schooling.

Are there early signs of academic success with our student population?

Last year, ROADS Bronx surpassed 94.3% of all transfer high schools in the city on the 'weighted Regents pass rate' in math, which take into account the *predicted likelihood* of passing the Regent based on a student's 8th grade state tests scores.

How is ROADS working to further improve results for students?

Both schools have now implemented common, interim assessments that mirror the NY State Regents exams and are aligned to the common core in order to give teachers a roadmap of what students need to learn, and to provide timely feedback to teachers of what students are learning.

What do our students and families say about ROADS?

Both ROADS schools scored high marks from teachers, students and parents for "communication" on the NYCDOE school climate survey. In fact, ROADS Brooklyn surpassed *all* city transfer high schools in "communication."

Additionally in a survey in June:

- 91% of ROADS students said that they have adults they can talk to who care about their feelings.
- 89% of ROADS students said that they have adults to turn to for good suggestions and advice.
- 88% of ROADS students said that they have adults in their lives who help them with practical problems.

How can I apply to go to ROADS?

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