**Send completed applications to network@eskolta.org** - Applications will be considered on a rolling basis

The Eskolta Network is an improvement community where educators draw upon research to collaboratively rethink how they serve students who have been failed by our school system, especially students of color and those living at or near poverty. We aim to confront educational inequities that are driven by systems of racism and oppression in our nation as a whole and improve academic outcomes for students who have been left behind so they can thrive in high school and onward into post-secondary success.

Participating schools engage in multi-year improvement projects connected to network focus areas:

* **Mastery-based Learning:** Create classroom routines, lessons, and units that focus on development of specific explicit skills and competencies
* **Strengths-based Culture:** Develop classroom and counseling environments that cultivate a sense of efficacy, belongingness, and purpose
* **Transparent Actionable Feedback:** Create routines for students to get supportive critical feedback on their growth in school to help them learn from assessments
* ***(Coming in 2020-21)* Culturally Responsive Education and Critical Pedagogy**

Grounded in an educator-driven, data-informed process, we work with you to explore problems unique to your school, root these in issues of equity and access for students in our system, create practices and tools, test and modify them, and measure their impact on student learning. School teams attend a series of network convenings to collaborate and learn with educators doing similar work in New York City as well as in other school districts. Between convenings, teams actively implement methods of continuous improvement to lead change in their unique school contexts with support from Eskolta that evolves over the multiple years of the project.

Please use this application to tell us your ideas for utilizing involvement with the Eskolta Network to advance how your school serves students who are currently off-track (pgs. 2-3) and how you will meet the commitments entailed in network participation (pgs. 4-5). We look forward to hearing from you!

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**School Name:**

Please provide contact info for the principal or other school leader who is point person for this effort:

|  |
| --- |
| **Name:** |
| **Position:***(If position is not principal or AP, please explain how you plan and coordinate with the principal.)* |
| **Phone Number:**  | **Email:**  |

**TARGET STUDENTS**

The Eskolta Network focuses on students who are off-track as defined by credits below expectations for age and/or chronic absences. In the table below, provide estimated numbers of students at your school.

*(NOTE - There is no need for a highly accurate accounting in this application. We will gather school data for a more systematic analysis for schools moving to the next stage.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Estimated Number** |
| **Total number of students** on register for the 2019-20 school year |  |
| **Students who were severely chronically absent** (less than 80% attendance) in at least one of the past three school years |  |
| **Students with credit accumulation that is significantly less than expected** for their age (15 with 0 credits, 16 with <11 credits, 17 with <22 credits, 18 with <33 credits, 19+ with <44 credits) |  |
| *If the above two categories apply to less than 50 students overall in your school but you believe other students are off-track…* Estimate number of **students with a different off-track indicator** for which you routinely collect and monitor data (in temporary housing, court involved, etc.)*Describe indicator if applicable:* |  |

**SCHOOL GOAL**

Describe an established school goal related to re-engaging and advancing students who are currently off-track (feel free to paste directly from your Comprehensive Education Plan or other planning document as this goal ideally aligns to priorities already mapped out with your school and the district).

Which of the following Eskolta Network focus areas best aligns to the work you envision for that goal?

(check all that apply; this is not a commitment at this stage)

* **Mastery-based Learning**
* **Strengths-based Culture**
* **Transparent Actionable Feedback**

How do you see your participation in the Eskolta Network supporting your school’s progress toward the goal? What differences do you aim to see in your school after this year and after three years of work?

**SCHOOL TEAM**

Briefly summarize an experience your staff has had using continuous improvement efforts to address issues of educational equity and your reflections on what goes into productively leading that work.

Schools in the Eskolta Network build a team of 3-5 educators to attend network sessions and implement an improvement project at school between the sessions. All team members are expected to maintain active involvement with network activities and related school-based work. Additionally, members of the team should represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives present among your full staff and be well-positioned to test out new ideas and eventually share learning and strategies with colleagues.

Identify members for your proposed school team below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role** | **How will this person contribute to the racial, cultural, and experiential diversity of your team?** | **How does this person work with target students in their role?** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please check all that apply in terms of your proposed work with the Eskolta Network:** |
| * This would be our school’s first experience partnering with Eskolta
* We have worked with Eskolta before, but the members of the proposed team have not
* Our proposed team consists of at least 1-2 members who have experience working with Eskolta
* Our school has one or more Eskolta Fellows who will be on the team or support its work
 | * This work represents a new line of effort for us
* This work would be building on existing efforts from prior school year(s)
* This work connects to efforts we have developed in past partnership with Eskolta
 |

**SCHOOL COMMITMENTS & BENEFITS**

The Eskolta Network is designed to accelerate learning and improvement for educators by setting up a community for educators to collaborate in a coordinated set of experiences that build upon each other.

The following commitments will ensure all participants get the most out of the network. Please check the boxes below to indicate you understand and commit to fulfilling each associated item, and provide the information requested to help us organize the network most effectively for the schools involved.

* ***1.*** *School leaders and team members will* ***actively participate in all network sessions*** *(with CTLE credit or stipends available for time outside of regular school hours):*
* *Four in-person after-school NYC convenings*
* *Three web-based after-school meetings of NYC and Boston network participants*
* *One inter-visitation to a network school*
* *A 3-day Summer Summit (dates to be determined with input from schools)*

Below are projected months, types, and times for this school year’s network sessions. Please indicate dates, if any, that will NOT work for your school:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Type of Session** | **Time** | **Dates that could NOT work for our team** |
| **October** | NYC Convening | 4:00-7:00p |  |
| **November** | NYC Convening | 4:00-7:00p |  |
| **December** | Online (NYC+Bos.) | 4:00-5:30p |  |
| **January** | NYC Convening | 4:00-7:00p |  |
| **February** | Online (NYC+Bos.) | 4:00-5:30p |  |
| **March**  | Inter-visitation | School day |  |
| **May**  | NYC Convening | 4:00-7:00p |  |
| **June** | Online (NYC+Bos.) | 4:00-5:30p |  |

Our school could potentially host a NYC convening of about 65-80 people - **Yes / No**

Our school has technology in place for smooth team participation in web-based meetings - **Yes / No**

* ***2.*** *School leaders will* ***provide time and support for the team*** *to conduct an improvement project:*
* *Engage in a strategic planning process with Eskolta to set goals and create an action plan*
* *Attend a launch meeting with the team and regularly check in with the Eskolta coach*
* *Set a regular time for the team to meet about 2-3 times per month between network sessions*

In our experience, this type of work progresses most effectively when teams can use a 60-90-minute block structured into the school schedule (e.g. common planning period, after-school professional time, etc.) What time could you establish in the school schedule for the team to regularly meet?

**SCHOOL COMMITMENTS & BENEFITS** (cont.)

* ***3.*** *School leaders will* ***facilitate data collection*** *to help gauge school and network-level impact:*
* *Host one full-day site visit for Eskolta to engage in baseline data collection at the school*
* *Help administer a survey and/or writing task (provided by Eskolta) to students in Oct. and May*
* *Provide requested data reports from source systems for network analysis (e.g. ATS reports)*

We have enough computers to administer online surveys and tasks to a full class - **Yes / No**

Who would be your school’s point person for accessing and sending source system data reports?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Role: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please share any questions or concerns you have regarding any of these Eskolta Network commitments.

Are you expecting to participate this school year in any of the following initiatives in which Eskolta is partnering with the New York City Department of Education? (please check all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * *College Access for All*
* *Community Schools*
* *Computer Science for All*
 | * *Continuous Learning Network Improvement Community*
* *Multiple Pathways Institute*
 |

Aside from those checked above, what other initiatives, PD programs, or ongoing commitments is your school involved in this school year? Please name each additional initiative and briefly describe your involvement and how that might help or hinder you in maintaining the Eskolta Network commitments.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Other 2019-20 Initiatives and Description** | **Potential Effect on Eskolta Network Commitments** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |