

Schools Are Us



You are an expert about your school's needs!

Take a tour of the **Schools Are Us** poster and fold-out guide following the steps below.
You will be even more of an expert on NYC public schools in just a few minutes.
Have fun!

Step 1: Open once to get to the foldout page with the heading ***How can I participate in improving my child's school?***

Quiz!:

- a) What year did mayoral control of schools begin in NYC?
- b) Are charter schools required to have SLTs?
- c) Do students serve on SLTs?

Step 2: Open to the next section that has 4 panels.

Panel 1: ***How do School Leadership Teams work?***

Quiz!:

- a) Up to how much money can SLT members receive for their service?
- b) Do SLTs make decisions by majority vote or consensus?

Panel 2: ***There are many kinds of goals the SLT can set***

Quiz!:

- a) How many candidates competed for the 5,400 available positions in Chicago Local School Councils in 2010?
- b) How can an SLT address a co-location in its building?

Panel 3: ***Common Concerns about SLTs***

Discussion question: Why would parents just sign off on a CEP developed by their principal?

Panel 4: ***There are lots of different decision-makers in the school system...***

Quiz!:

How many members of the PEP does the mayor appoint?

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Step 3: Open the guide all the way to find the **Schools Are Us poster**. You'll see it's divided into four major sections, with a few side notes.

Read the key to the icons on the left of the poster.

Activity: Can you find yourself on this poster? In how many places does someone you elected represent you?

Can you find the answers to the questions in each section described below?

School

a) What is the name of the council that informs how Title 1 funding is spent at a school?

b) Name at least 3 unions that school staff belong to in NYC.

District

a) Name at least two citywide districts.

b) What is the name of the DOE office responsible for strengthening parent involvement in schools?

c) In what year did Mayor Lindsay organize the NYC school system in 32 community school districts?

d) Are UFT District Representatives elected by union members?

Citywide

a) Whose voices are mainly represented in these advisory committees?

Mayor's office

a) Whose job is it to select the Community Superintendents?

(Networks)

Discussion question: Does it matter if the networks are part of the governance structure?

(New York State)

Discussion question: If your community was unhappy with the way schools are governed, which of your lawmakers would you speak to first?