

Expanded Success Initiative: ESI Week 2015

The Expanded Success Initiative (ESI) is one of the nation's largest public-private partnerships focused on eliminating the educational achievement gap and increasing the number of black and Latino young men who graduate high school prepared for college and career. Supported by Open Society Foundations, ESI is the educational component of the Office of the Mayor's Young Men's Initiative (YMI), the nation's boldest and most comprehensive effort to tackle the broad disparities slowing the advancement of black and Latino young men.

In August 2011, the Mayor, NYC Schools Chancellor, and George Soros announced ESI as a pledge to "transform the lives of New York's most vulnerable children."¹ They articulated the challenge that

"fewer than half of all Black [and Latino] males finish high school and a mere 18 percent of Black [and Latino] males aged 18 to 21 are enrolled in college. Since the launch of ESI, over 40 NYC public schools, their staff, and students have passionately committed to changing that narrative for young men of color. From May 18 – May 22, ESI Week, the Expanded Success Initiative will celebrate the conclusion of the initiative's direct investment to schools and bring together students, school leaders, administrators, partners, and friends—all those committed to the work of improving outcomes for black and Latino young men. ESI Week is an opportunity for participants from across New York and beyond to engage and advance the conversation about our students and communities.

The driving force behind bringing together key stakeholders and partners for ESI Week is the impact the initiative has had within New York City Public Schools. For the last 3 years, the Expanded Success Initiative has used new ideas and creative solutions to tackle the educational and opportunity gaps that challenge young men of color. During that time period, ESI has provided direct funding to 40 NYC public high schools to spur new ideas, strategies, and programs that will increase the number of young men prepared for college and career, increased college advising training for college advisors and counselors to better support our young men and their families, and designed and open three new public schools based on a new school model that can achieve breakthrough results in college and career outcomes for students.

The Expanded Success Initiative is not another pilot program, but a commitment to a social and moral cause. During ESI Week (May 18th – May 22nd) we will celebrate the accomplishments of our black and Latino young male students and highlight the work that has been done in the 40 established and 3 new schools. As part of this weeklong conversation across NYC, we are creating spaces where principals, teachers, coaches, guidance counselor, college advisors and staff from ESI schools as well as other NYC high schools can hear from and learn with each other. ESI Week is an opportunity to continue to advance the conversation about improving outcomes for young men of color in this country.

For more information about ESI, please visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/ESI>, www.esinyc.com or follow us on Twitter @esinyc. For information about YMI, visit www.nyc.gov/yymi. For questions about ESI Week, contact Paul Forbes at pforbes@schools.nyc.gov.



"The group that is facing some of the most severe challenges in 21st century America is boys and young men of color...I believe the continuing struggles of so many boys and young men, the fact that too many of them are falling by the wayside, dropping out, unemployed, involved in negative behavior, going to jail, being profiled — this is a moral issue for our country."

-- **President Obama announcing the "My Brother's Keeper" Initiative**

¹ <http://www.soros.org/initiatives/usprograms/focus/cbma/news/nyc-young-mens-initiative-20110804>