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## **Leap Day Campaign Celebrates an ExpandedED Year**

NYC nonprofit ExpandedED Schools seeks to raise awareness of the learning gap and encourage people to make the most of extra time

ExpandedED Schools, a nonprofit working in underserved schools in New York City, has just launched a Leap Day [campaign](#) to raise awareness of the learning gap and to encourage New Yorkers (and people everywhere) to make the most of extra time.

To celebrate, the organization has created a Bonus Day [Bucket List](#), 100 things adults can do to make the most of this “ExpandedED Year.” From take a dance class to ride the Staten Island Ferry, buy a plant to write a letter to the editor, this list has something for everyone.

Organizations around the city are getting involved by partnering with ExpandedED Schools to sponsor an event or class on Leap Day and donate a portion of the proceeds to help close the learning gap. People can make the most of extra time and make a difference for kids in need.

Partners include:

- Brooklyn Brainery, which hosts classes for curious adults on anything from favorite crafts to bookish intellectualism
- The Design Gym, an organization that empowers people with the tools of design thinking to create change
- Fit 4 Dance, a studio dedicated to bringing quality and affordable dance and fitness instruction to women and children in Brooklyn
- Pura Vida Urban Fitness, who provides fun and effective fitness classes for all levels
- Harlem Yoga Studio, who is dedicated to making yoga accessible and affordable to every body in Harlem

Kids are getting into the action as well, since Leap Day falls on a Monday. More than 280 students in several ExpandedED Schools sites will be participating in a group leap on February 29<sup>th</sup>, and more are expected to join. Not to be outdone, the ExpandedED Schools staff of more than 50 will conduct a group leap in Times Square.

Why Leap Day? Just as early astronomers reimagined time to give us an extra day every four years, ExpandedED Schools reimagines time to give kids growing up in poverty extra opportunities every day of the week. It's like every day is Leap Day in [ExpandedED Schools](#). By adding time, enrichments and role models to the school day, the organization helps close the learning gap.

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Below are statements of support from foundations and organizations around the country:

“The Pinkerton Foundation is a proud supporter of ExpandedED Schools. Our mission is to improve the lives of young people by helping them develop the skills, self-reliance and strong values necessary to live up to their full potential. ExpandedED Schools does just that by creatively using the out-of-school time hours to ignite the love of learning and make what students learn during the day more relevant to their lives.” – Rick Smith, President, The Pinkerton Foundation

“ExpandedED Schools understands that effective partnerships between community-based organizations and schools can help children, especially those from low-income households, gain access to more high-quality learning and enrichment opportunities.” – Nancy Devine, Director of Learning and Enrichment, The Wallace Foundation.

“Expanded learning time is essential for young people to leap ahead. It's about exposure, experience and equity. Spending more time on math will not have meaning to young people who lack exposure and experiences that reveal to them that math is a cool tool for designing a better skate board or more energy efficient technologies. Similarly, spending more time on reading will not have meaning unless students see its value in helping to understand whale behavior or how to bake the most delicious cupcake. This country needs to expand young people's minds in a more dynamic and relevant way than chasing a test score. We just need more expanded learning programs, more systems around the country, and more initiatives that re-engage youth in learning once again. Not only that, we need to be working more closely with our schools to create four seasons of inspired learning. Hey, adults crave this way of learning as much as the young people!” – Hillary Salmons, Executive Director, PASA (Providence After School Alliance)

“After School Matters is proud to support and collaborate with ExpandedED Schools to provide more opportunities for young people. An expanded learning experience can change a young person's life and pave a path to a successful future. That is why it is critical for organizations – like ExpandedED Schools, After School Matters, and our many partners with Every Hour Counts – to invest in our

youth. They are literally our future.” – Mary Ellen Caron, After School Matters Chief Executive Officer

“Similar to ExpandED Schools, Prime Time Palm Beach County (FL) has been assisting youth success in closing the learning gap for more than a decade. We applaud their leadership in expanding the school day through enrichment and launching the #ExpandEDyear campaign.” – Suzette Harvey, Executive Director, Prime Time Palm Beach County

*[ExpandED Schools](#) (formerly TASC) is a nonprofit dedicated to closing the learning gap by increasing access to enriched education experiences. In school, after school and during the summer, ExpandED Schools reimagines learning time, seeking to ensure that all kids have opportunities to discover their talents and develop their full potential.*