

BOOST: Early Stages

Early Stages, an exciting and innovative Center for Educational Innovation (CEI) program provides underserved schools and students exposure to New York City acclaimed performing arts.

For a large majority of public schools Early Stages provide their only arts programming. Early Stages at CEI is more than just a trip to the theater. We introduce students to a new part of the city, chaperone them through the doors of many of New York City's most renowned performing arts venues, such as Broadway theaters, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and provide multiple opportunities for students to reflect about their own lives in this expanded context. Students have multiple opportunities to respond to the theater through workshops, discussions and writing.

The program is organized around three primary goals:

- To instill in students a sense of comfort and belonging in their city's foremost cultural institutions
- To prepare teachers and students with basic information on theatergoing, including a pre-show workshop on "What to Expect When Going to the Theater", as well as specific background on performances they will see, so teachers can integrate the theater experience into classroom learning;
- To elicit comprehensive student responses to the theater through workshops, discussions and writing so students can reflect and expand upon their experiences at the theater.

Early Stages students attend regularly scheduled performances, experiencing live theater in "real-world" situations and gaining the confidence to return on their own. The magic of the theater always engages the students and in our experience with thousands of students no student has ever been bored.

The immediacy of the theater opens the hearts and minds of our students to new ideas and new points of view. Many productions on and off Broadway speak directly to the life challenges our students and their families face. Recognizing one's own life challenges in a play's action and characters can also lead to understanding and empathizing with characters that are not like you—a powerful message for students living a diverse, multicultural city like New York.

Customized Services | Expanded Technical Assistance | Enhanced Professional Learning Offerings to Superintendents and School Leaders that is aligned to the School Leadership Competencies:
Personal Leadership | Use of Data | Curriculum and Instruction |
Development of Staff and Community | Use of Resources and Operations

Our PD Presentations Formats include Mentoring | Workshops | Walkthroughs | Collaborative Conversations/Book Study | Coaching | Faculty Conferences | Staff/Team/Cabinet Meetings