

Teachers College, Columbia University  
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Teachers College, Columbia University (TC) through its Raising Educational Achievement Coalition of Harlem (REACH) project proposes to expand a university-assisted, full-service community school model in two schools in Harlem where TC, along with a consortium of community partners, have been effectively working together to coordinate and deliver comprehensive services for students and families.

The West Harlem community experiences persistently high levels of poverty, upwards of 40% among its predominantly Black and Latino families and includes large numbers of children in temporary housing. The target schools are Title I eligible. PS 36 serves 363 students in grades 3-K through 5 and Frederick Douglass Academy II serves 370 students in grades 6 through 12. Both schools continue to fall short of state testing benchmarks with less than 40% of 3rd – 8th graders achieving proficiency in ELA and math, and experience high rates of chronic absenteeism.

The FSCS program will target students, families, and school staff with integrated pipelines of supports that will improve student proficiency on state exams, attendance, and graduation rates. Key project goals are to: increase achievement through improved instruction and ELO; improve attendance in school-day and ELO programs; increase the number of students prepared to learn by increasing access to physical and mental healthcare; and increase parent engagement to support student achievement.

Pipeline strategies include professional development for teachers; coaching on the use of data to drive supports; tutoring and enrichment ELO programs; Summer Bridge transition programs; health screenings and health fairs; counseling and referrals; parent engagement workshops; and family celebrations. The consortium includes TC, Children's Health Fund, New York Foundling, and Harlem Dowling Westside Center.