Why the iZone?

Although NYC schools have made tremendous progress in recent years, the education challenges facing the city remain significant. **Far too few of our students graduate ready to be successful in college and careers.**
Radical growth requires radical change.

Within the NYC Department of Education, the iZone was established to support a community of schools dedicated to rethinking and redesigning educational models.
The DOE’s iZone office supports a community of schools dedicated to building innovative educational models. The office pulls from innovative practices & theories across city offices & sectors, in order to personalize learning for each student. Through this approach we rethink the structures of schools, creating new models that meet the needs, motivations, and strengths of every student.
Vision for Change
Rethinking School Models to Focus on Our Students

Classroom-Centric to Student-Centric School Model
iZone360

Organizing resources and practices around personalizing learning

• iZone360 completed the first year of implementation this past school year.

• iZone360 supports the redesign of schools through a four-month conference series (InnoCon) and offers continuous guidance and support throughout the school year.

• Over 50 middle and high schools are part of iZone360 for the 2012-2013 school year.

Lesson Learned: Schools need continuous exposure to innovations, support to understand and implement innovations, and guidance around the innovation process.

Solution: Design and Component Partners
Meeting individual student needs through online and blended learning.

- The iZone developed the iLearnNYC platform to aggregate vendor content for teachers and provide teachers with data management tools.

- iLearnNYC had an 80% retention rate for the 2011-12 school year after a new fee-for-service model showed high demand and satisfaction.

- Currently, there are nearly 200 schools in iLearnNYC.

Lesson Learned: The NYC DOE has seen success with our school portfolio process but many schools need greater access and support for their coursework.

Possible Solution: Virtual Classrooms
InnovateNYC

Identifying critical learning challenges and piloting targeted solutions through the InnovateNYC Ecosystem and School of One

• School of One is a full-time mathematics program that uses daily assessments to differentiate instruction based on each student’s unique needs and learning styles.

• School of One is expanding from one pilot school to five schools for the 2012-13 school year.

• The iZone has developed the InnovateNYC Ecosystem to facilitate the alignment between school demand, based on learning challenges, and product development from education technology companies.

• The InnovateNYC Ecosystem will launch its first challenge this year.
iZone: On The Ground

**Individual Learning Experiences:**
Teachers create a variety of learning experiences so students can move at their own pace.

**Mastery-Based Assessment:**
Students pass courses based on the completion of outcomes that show mastery of skills and knowledge.

**Virtual Classes:**
Providing access to curriculum outside of their school walls.

**Student-led Parent/Teacher Conferences:**
Ensuring student engagement and accountability for their academic career

http://vimeo.com/14996094
Early Outcomes

• Students reported feeling more motivated and engaged in their online and blended courses than they did in their traditional courses.

• 81% of students reported that they wanted to take online and blended learning courses the next year.

• Students reporting that assignments were more on their level in online and blended learning courses than in their traditional courses.

• 86% of teachers reported that blended learning created opportunities for students to self-regulate their learning.

• School of One students posted a gain in proficiency level (Level 3 and 4) two times greater than gains posted by middle schools citywide.
iZone: Diffusion

Communities of Practice
- Lab Schools
- Affinity Groups
- Leadership Council

Infusion into Department Goals
- Phase Out School Support
- Teacher Recruitment
- New School Designs
Our commitment to supporting personalization extends beyond the NYC DOE. The iZone partners with education communities and expert organizations to break the silos of innovation, support schools, and diffuse successful practices.

**Communities**
- League of Innovative Schools
- Global Education Leaders’ Program (GELP)

**Organizations**
- Design & Component Partners (e.g., Apple, Re-Inventing Schools Coalition, Generation Schools)
- iZone Supporters (e.g., Google, Ford, Dell, JP Morgan)