PE Works is Mayor Bill de Blasio’s unprecedented multiyear investment to revitalize physical education for every student in NYC public schools. The initiative is an intensive and holistic four-year effort to establish physical education (PE) as a foundational component of every student’s academic experience. Research shows that physically active students do better in school and learn skills that can keep them healthy for their entire lives. Building on an eight-district pilot in 2015-16, PE Works expanded Citywide in 2016-17 with a mandate to improve physical education in all K-12 schools. In 2017-18, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) focused on three areas: investing in teachers, building PE into school environments, and developing communities that are proud of PE.
Revitalizing physical education in New York City requires more certified PE teachers in elementary schools, as well as a vibrant professional learning community. PE teachers at all grade levels should be engaged, empowered, and respected for their contributions. Developing PE teacher-leaders is essential to ensure the gains made by PE Works are sustained beyond the life of the initiative.

In Year 3, the DOE continued to recruit and screen additional certified PE teachers, and provided elementary schools with funding to hire them. We expanded the PE teacher pipeline by accepting more teachers in the Pathways to PE alternative certification program and launching a supplementary certification program. We strengthened professional learning through Professional Learning Pathways, new training sequences to build PE teachers’ expertise. The DOE also launched six-week coaching cycles to provide teachers with individualized instructional support, and we expanded the number of teacher-led Professional Learning Communities so that more PE teachers can network and problem solve together.

MORE PE TEACHERS

- 196 new PE Works-funded elementary PE teachers hired, 284 have been hired since the pilot
- 85% of schools serving elementary grades have at least one State-certified PE teacher, on track to fulfill a key promise of PE Works
- 47 new participants in Pathways to PE and 18 participants in a new supplemental certification program
- 20% of full-time, licensed PE teachers teach in K-5 elementary schools, up from 10% three years ago; Citywide increase in total number of K-12 PE teachers from ~2,400 to 2,750+ over three years

MORE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

- 6,200 classroom teachers in elementary schools learned how to use Move-to-Improve, a classroom physical activity program that supplements PE, from 300+ trained PE teachers
- 1,200+ PE teachers participated in the new Professional Learning Pathway for elementary teachers
- 220 teachers participated in individualized coaching cycles
- 360 PE teachers engaged in Professional Learning Communities led by PE teachers each month
- 70+ PE teachers attended State and national conferences
- One of 17 2018 DOE Big Apple Award winners: PE teacher and CHAMPS coach Mike Rosario of PS 279 in the Bronx was recognized for instilling a love of learning and lifelong fitness in his students.
BUILDING PE INTO SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

PE Works helps school leaders identify and create a culture that establishes and sustains comprehensive PE for years to come. To build awareness of current PE conditions in each school, we completed individualized needs assessments last year and shared summary reports with principals as an initial step for multiyear PE action plans. These action plans contained specific steps for improving staffing, scheduling, professional learning, community building, and ensuring PE spaces are safe and supportive. We also launched Professional Learning Communities for Principals and Assistant Principals to help them strengthen their capacity to support PE staff.

- 600+ schools received a summary report showing areas of strength and areas of focus, finalizing summary reports for all schools Citywide
- 1,480+ schools received multiyear action plans
- 40 schools received facility upgrades (padding) to make PE spaces safer
- 2 borough-based Professional Learning Communities for Principals and Assistant Principals launched

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE PROUD OF PE

Families and local stakeholders are powerful advocates for PE and physical activity, especially as members of School Wellness Councils or on our District Wellness Advisory Council. This year, the DOE continued to fund physical activity programs and School Wellness Council grants, as well as events and partnerships that provide students with opportunities beyond PE. We updated the DOE Wellness Policy, highlighting the collaborative role communities, School Wellness Councils, and the District Wellness Advisory Council play in supporting PE and physical activity as integral to student health.

- 207 schools won a School Wellness Council grant, and 100 schools received a partner grant to support family and student engagement projects
- 92 Citywide physical activity showcases and events occurred, including 22 adapted physical activity/sports events for students with disabilities
- 1,550+ CHAMPS physical activity programs were funded at more than 400 elementary and middle schools, including District 75
- More than 40,000 students participated in CHAMPS and adapted physical activity programs and events
- 24,000+ students played in active recess programs; hundreds of other students engaged in partner-provided supplementary programming, like field trips, clinics, and workshops
LOOKING AHEAD: YEAR 4 GOALS

INVESTING IN TEACHERS

- Fund and hire ~170 new PE teachers and cultivate pipeline so that schools continue to have access to certified PE teachers
- Launch PE Professional Learning Pathways for middle and high school teachers and a new Teacher Leadership Pathway
- Continue to provide coaching cycles and expand teacher-led PLCs to reach all districts
- Train 225+ PE teachers to provide Move-to-Improve to classroom teachers, and support all MTI-trained PE teachers to ensure Move-to-Improve is part of robust PE in all elementary schools

BUILDING PE INTO SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

- Roll out, in the Fall, a new PE Scope and Sequence for elementary grades to standardize what students should know and be able to do; middle and high school will follow in Winter 2019
- Collaborate with schools, including District 75 and transfer schools, on multiyear action plans, especially to improve PE scheduling
- Launch Professional Learning Communities for Principals/Assistant Principals in all boroughs and develop a Professional Learning Pathway for administrators

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE PROUD OF PE

- Activate the District Wellness Advisory Council’s Student Voice Committee to empower high school students to advocate for wellness issues that affect students Citywide
- Continue to expand school-based wellness initiatives and physical activity programs through partnerships and incentives

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