



QUAGLIA INSTITUTE FOR STUDENT ASPIRATIONS DEMONSTRATION SITES

Demonstration Sites are an exciting opportunity for schools to work closely with the [Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations](#) (QISA) in a three-year partnership. This collaboration involves frequent site visits, professional development, direct work with students, a wide array of assessments, and attention to whole school change. QISA partners with a very limited number of schools in order to build capacity for them to "demonstrate" the effectiveness of aspirations-related school improvement. The driving force behind these efforts is developing the self-worth, meaningful engagement, and purpose that help students become active and responsible citizens who excel in school, a career, and life. QISA fosters teaching and learning environments that listen to the voice of students and promote critical thinking and problem solving skills, creativity, and open communication for both students and staff. Ultimately, this balanced approach leads to the academic, personal, and social growth that is the hallmark of a truly great education.

School Responsibilities	QISA's Commitment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an Aspirations Team representative of the entire staff. • Establish a student Aspirations Team representative of the student body. • Identify a school contact person to coordinate and oversee school logistics. • Secure time for meetings with school leaders, staff, and students. • Invest in students as critical to the change process. • Participate in ongoing Action Research agenda based on Aspirations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an independent, research-grounded, results-oriented approach. • Keynote from Dr. Russell Quaglia. • Lead an intensive 2-day Aspirations Training prior to start of school year. • Visit school bi-monthly for two days (total 10 days). • Offer support between visits by e-mail/phone. • Provide My Voice Surveys and related reports for students and staff. • Offer Access to iKnow My Class surveys for all teachers. • Provide Aspirations Resource materials.
Outcomes of the Partnership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct improvements to the 8 Conditions that Make a Difference®. • A revitalized school culture in which students' aspirations flourish. • Improvements to academic achievement, attendance, discipline, and graduation rate. • Greater and more meaningful student and staff engagement and collaboration. • Alignment with accreditation standards and 21st Century Skills. 	

The effectiveness of the Demonstration Site model is as a framework for change. This approach to school improvement puts QISA's broad experience together with a school's in depth understanding of their unique culture. The results lead to sustained progress in virtually every area of school life. Students have a right to expect that school is preparing them for whatever their futures hold. Being a QISA Demonstration Site means your students will have the ability to dream about the future and be inspired in the present to get there.

Demonstration Site Frequently Asked Questions

How is the Aspirations Framework different from a program?

Schools are accustomed to neatly packaged programs that have a canned curriculum or contain a “How to...” binder. QISA knows schools are unique. The Aspirations Framework is a set of guiding principles that each school interprets based on its mission, goals, and feedback on My Voice and iKnow surveys. QISA provides resources to help leaders, teachers, and students understand the framework and implement positive change.

“Aspirations work is more than another program. It changed how we related to students. We have seen it change the lives of students.” - Dr. James Carter, former-Superintendent Selma, Alabama

What is the role of the Aspirations Team?

QISA encourages schools to form an Aspirations Team of 8-12 committed, energetic staff members, including support staff. This leadership team works directly with QISA field specialists to learn about the survey results and the 8 Conditions framework. With the guidance of QISA, the team is responsible for informing and involving the entire staff in aspirations related action research.

How does Aspirations relate to achievement and academics standards?

Aspirations is about helping each student reach his or her academic, personal, and social potential. To succeed academically students need supportive relationships with adults and peers, meaningful involvement in their classes and the life of the school, and high expectations held by themselves and by others. Aspirations work asks teachers and students to be responsible for creating a dynamic learning environment.

How does this affect teaching and learning?

QISA understands that the classroom offers a daily opportunity to help students reach their fullest potential. Effective change to a school's "climate" or "culture" includes improving teaching and learning. As teachers reconnect with the reasons they became educators, they create positive relationships with students, connect what they are teaching in meaningful ways, and instill responsibility and confidence in their students.

How is progress measured?

QISA is results-oriented. To measure progress, schools administer the My Voice student and staff survey multiple times. In addition, schools are encouraged to track attendance, dropout rates, discipline referrals, and academic performance indicators. When a school improves the 8 Conditions, all other aspects of school life improve as well.

What is the role of students?

Initially, all students take the My Voice survey and participate in focus group sessions. As the work continues, students form an Aspirations Team. Students actively pursue projects and initiatives related to fostering aspirations at their school. Ultimately, students and staff become partners in improving the Conditions that foster everyone's aspirations.

“I couldn’t believe it when they asked us to take the My Voice Survey. It was the first time anyone at school asked me what I thought and invited me to do something about it.” - John, High School Student – Whitefield, NH

Aspirations Time Line

	Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Voice Student Survey • Student focus groups • iKnow My Class formative assessment tool • Baseline attendance, discipline, and performance data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Voice Student Survey • My Voice Staff Survey • Staff focus groups • iKnow My Class formative assessment tool • Year Over Year Reports to assess progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Voice Student Survey • My Voice Staff Survey • Focus groups as needed • iKnow My Class formative assessment tool • Year Over Year Reports to assess progress
Bi-Monthly Site Visit	<p><i>Day One:</i> Aspirations Team explores the 8 Conditions in depth. Team coached to examine pedagogical practice, pilot changes, and remain in communication with colleagues. Engage in action research.</p> <p><i>Day Two:</i> Observations, conversations with departments/teams, school leaders, and students in order to build capacity for future work.</p> <p><i>*Prior to start of school there is an intensive 2-Day training for the Aspirations Team.</i></p>	<p><i>Day One:</i> Aspirations Team focuses on school policies, procedures, norms, and customs; develops systemic change.</p> <p><i>Day Two:</i> Meet with student Aspirations Team. Staff focus groups. Ongoing meetings with departments/teams, school leaders, and students. Additional meetings with school community members, parents, coaches, board members, and other stakeholders.</p>	<p><i>Day One:</i> Aspirations student and staff Teams meet together to develop and implement action plans. Learn about sustainability.</p> <p><i>Day Two:</i> Orient new staff. Ongoing meetings with departments/teams, school leaders, students, school community members, parents, coaches, board members, and other stake-holders.</p>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on specific personal and initial building-wide changes. • Internal capacity to work with and lead change initiatives revolving around Aspirations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep focus on specific building-wide changes. • Internal capacity to work with and lead change initiatives revolving around Aspirations. • Team publishes outcomes in QISA newsletter and on QISA Web site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant change in culture. • Aspirations as lens through which all critically examine how they work with one another. • Team publishes in national journals and presents at conferences.

Financial Commitment

The cost of being a QISA Demonstration Site, which includes all of the resources and materials outlined above, as well as travel expenses for QISA field specialists, is \$52,000 per year for three years. This payment can be made on any billing schedule that accommodates a school's budget.

For further information on becoming a QISA Demonstration Site, please contact info@qisa.org.