



# **Dream. Discover. Design.**

*Schooled:* Lessons from opening  
a new urban academy

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Pittsburgh Public Schools  
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# From research to reality

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**Original research by 10  
graduate students at Heinz  
College**

**250 students admitted  
to the Academy in  
grades 6-9**

**Seven advisory  
committees and input from  
more than 250 individuals**

**August,  
2006**

**Review of secondary  
sources, site visits,  
benchmarking, community  
forums, and parent focus  
groups**

**Nearly \$3 million in  
support from local  
foundations including  
Buhl, DSF, and US Steel**

**September,  
2009**

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# *Schooled*

Lessons from opening a new urban academy

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- About the Academy
- Key accomplishments
- Lessons about project management
- Lessons about other stuff

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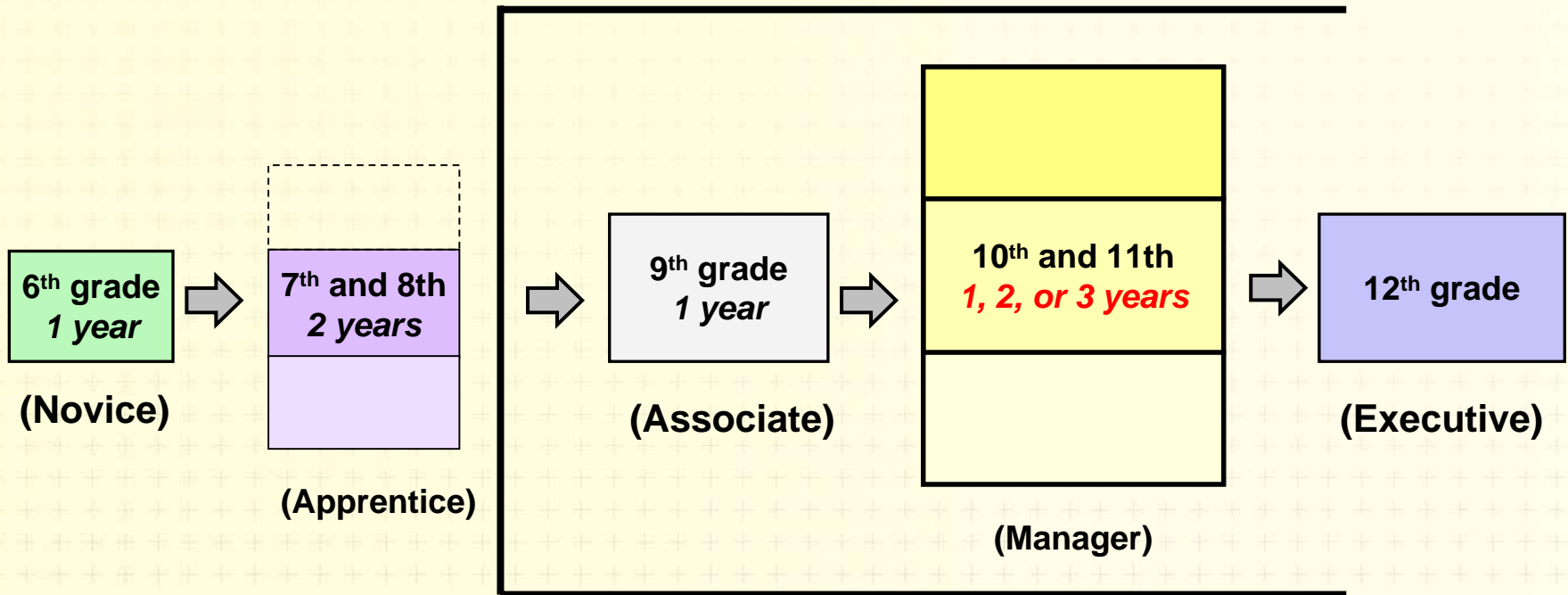
# A new way to think about school

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- **Every day opportunities to Dream. Discover. Design.**
- **Extraordinary support systems**
- **Four custom-designed academic focus areas**
- **Special advanced courses for a unique honors diploma**

**Dream. Discover. Design.**

Students may complete the upper levels of the program in three, four, or five years



Dream

Discover

Design

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# Key accomplishments

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- Integrated a middle school program
- Obtained Board approval for key innovations
- Negotiated MOU with teachers' union
- Implemented a new system for magnet school admissions
- Created a new approach to high school science
- Developed curriculum through a wiki site
- Raised nearly \$3 million to help with start-up costs
- Hired principal and project assistant one year early
- Recruited and admitted a diverse group of students

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# Lessons about project management

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<b>Vision</b>	<b>Process</b>
A bold, well articulated goal Evidence of demand	Adequate time and capacity Defined tasks and due dates Budget
<b>Relationships</b>	<b>Crisis Management</b>
Support of key influencers People like you and want to help Ideas and input are included	

# Lessons about other stuff





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- Embrace navigational leadership
- Include outside expertise
- Be pragmatic
- Finish
- Perceive possibilities

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# Schools have failed to keep up with a changing society

	1900		2009
Economy	Mix of skilled and unskilled professions		Mostly skilled professions, especially at a family wage
Society	Social inequality, especially by race and gender		Progress towards social equality
Technology	I don't know		Computers
Schools	Sorting mechanism		Sorting mechanism

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