

New York City Public Schools / New Visions for Public Schools



[New York City Public Schools](#) (NYCPS) is the largest public school system in the United States, serving approximately 850,000 students across more than 1,600 schools. [New Visions for Public Schools](#) is a nonprofit organization that has dramatically scaled its technical capacity, evolving from a small team of developers supporting a handful of schools to providing the Portal platform, which is available to all NYCPS schools. This transformation reflects both the growing demand for their solutions and the organization's commitment to addressing systemic data infrastructure challenges across the entire district.

Location	New York
Setting	Urban
Students Served	~850,000
Schools	1,600 schools, including over 400 high schools
Key Demographics	42% Hispanic/Latinx, 20% Black, 19% Asian, 16% White 14% English Learners, 21% receive special education services, 73% qualify for free or reduced price lunch
Tech Infrastructure	Advanced: Needs integrated platforms with specialized technical architecture
Implementation	Externally Developed: Primarily designed and maintained by an external partner
Scalability	Broadly Replicable: Adaptable for multiple districts or nation-wide usage

Student Success Vision

After nearly two decades of steady graduation rate increases, New York City's school system now faces urgent challenges that threaten this positive trajectory. The combination of historically high chronic absenteeism following the pandemic and the end of COVID-era Regents Examination waivers creates a need for more coordinated, data-informed interventions across NYCPS.

New Visions addresses this challenge by grounding its student success work in structured routines that occur at critical decision points throughout the year—graduation planning, course scheduling reviews, and marking period check-ins. By supporting ~80 schools to engage in these routines simultaneously, New Visions amplifies consistent practices across

all participating schools. This coordinated approach is particularly powerful in a system as large and diverse as NYCPS.

Pain Points

Before working with New Visions to implement the Portal—the New Visions custom-built student success platform—many high schools in New York City experienced challenges with **System Customization**, **System Usability**, and **Intervention Tracking**.



System Customization: Previous systems were not tailored to reflect the state- and school-specific expectations and requirements for student progress.

- Schools were not able with previous tools to indicate when they offered specific courses or expected students to pass certain exams, making it difficult to accurately track and flag if students were genuinely off-track for graduation.
- They also lacked the ability to incorporate New York state-mandated Regents Examination requirements, which differ by diploma type and are critical for graduation but offered only at specific times during the year.



System Usability: The complexity of previous data systems prevented staff from accessing key information when making time-sensitive decisions about student support.

- Existing platforms disrupted natural workflows, requiring staff to click through multiple screens and run complex reports to piece together a complete picture of student needs.
- The cumbersome nature of these systems meant critical decisions were often delayed or made without complete information, leading to missed opportunities for intervention.



Intervention tracking: There was no systematic way to track the full intervention lifecycle and evaluate effectiveness of interventions.

- Schools struggled to connect specific interventions (like tutoring or mentoring) with measurable student outcomes (like improved grades or attendance).
- Staff had limited visibility into whether students assigned to interventions were actually participating in them.
- Without clear connections between interventions and outcomes, schools couldn't effectively determine which support strategies were working and which weren't.

"Critical student data alerts often get lost in our district's information systems. By the time I could review it, it was often too late to address issues like failing grades that then became permanent transcript failures, or attendance drops that led to chronic absenteeism."

— Devon E, Principal

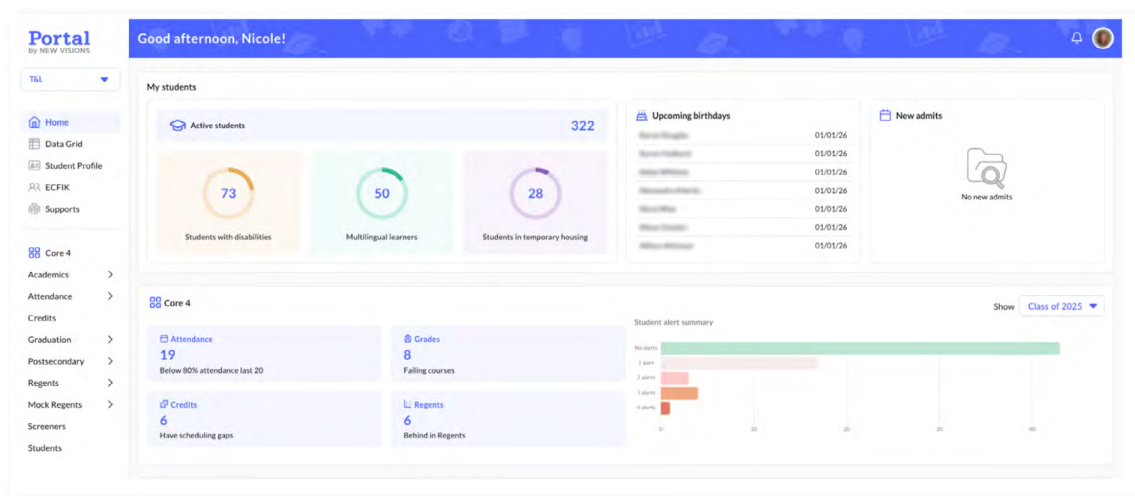
District-Led Innovation

The Portal

Based on the unique challenges, needs, and lived experience of practitioners in New York City, New Visions developed the Portal, a student planning and school management tool that uses data to highlight groups of students needing attention, monitors whether or not an action has been taken to support those students, and helps schools understand whether or not those actions improved the outcome they were designed to improve.

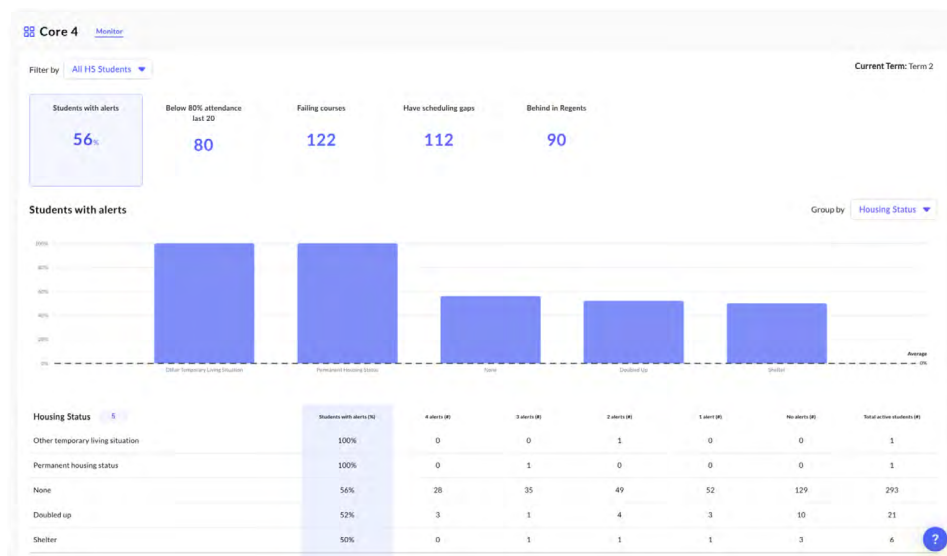
School Homepage

The Portal's homepage provides a simple "at-a-glance" dashboard.



School Dashboard

This view allows schools to hone in on specific subgroups of students (for example, grouped by housing status).



The Data Grid

This spreadsheet-like view allows schools to sort and filter the data, take bulk planning actions, and create custom data views.

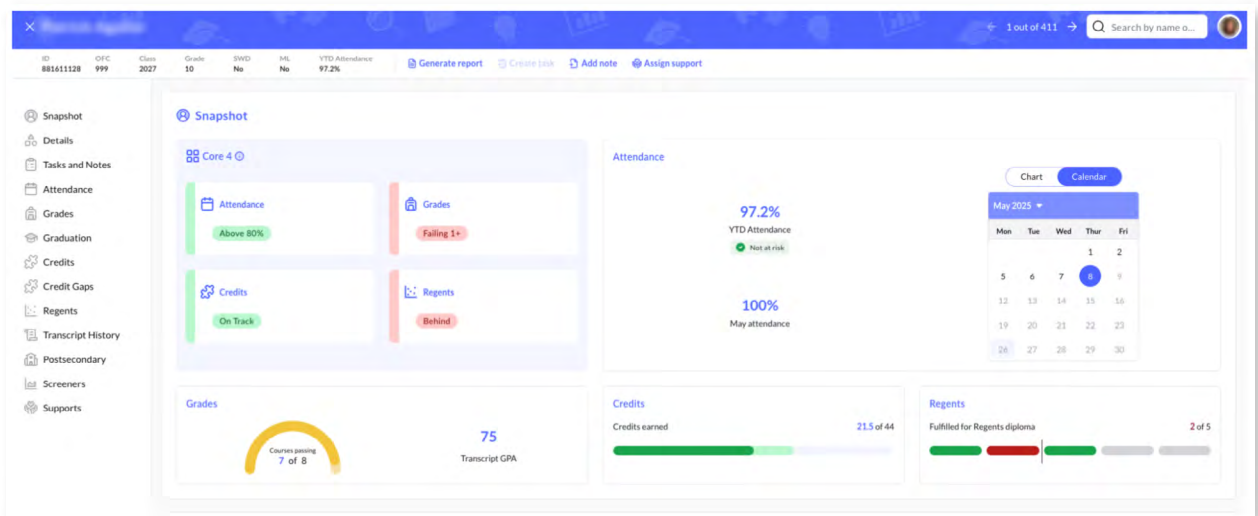
The Data Grid interface includes a top navigation bar with options: Edit columns, 2 filters, +3 sorts, View profiles, Add note, Assign support, Generate reports, Plans, and More. A search bar and 'Save to my views' button are also present.

Student ID	Student Name	Class	Core 4 Alerts	Credits	Regents	Grades	Recent Attendance	4-Year Grad Projection	Tasks To Do	All Notes	Current Grade
881611528	Student Name	2025	1	On Track	All set	Passing all	Below 80%	1: Very Likely	0	1	Adv
881611528	Student Name	2025	1	On Track	All set	Passing all	Below 80%	1: Very Likely	0	0	Reg
881611528	Student Name	2025	2	Gaps	All set	Failing 1+	Above 80%	1: Very Likely	0	1	Adv
881611528	Student Name	2025	2	Gaps	All set	Failing 1+	Above 80%	1: Very Likely	0	2	Adv
881611528	Student Name	2025	3	Gaps	All set	Failing 1+	Below 80%	1: Very Likely	5	1	Adv
881611528	Student Name	2025	1	On Track	All set	Passing all	Below 80%	1: Very Likely	0	0	Reg
881611528	Student Name	2025	1	On Track	All set	Failing 1+	Above 80%	1: Very Likely	0	3	Loc
881611528	Student Name	2025	3	On Track	Behind	Failing 1+	Below 80%	2: Likely	0	0	Loc
881611528	Student Name	2025	1	On Track	All set	Passing all	Below 80%	1: Very Likely	0	1	Adv
881611528	Student Name	2025	1	On Track	All set	Passing all	Below 80%	1: Very Likely	2	0	Adv
881611528	Student Name	2025	1	On Track	All set	Passing all	Below 80%	1: Very Likely	0	0	Reg
881611528	Student Name	2025	3	On Track	Behind	Failing 1+	Below 80%	3: Probable	0	0	Reg
881611528	Student Name	2025	1	On Track	All set	Passing all	Below 80%	1: Very Likely	1	0	Loc
881611528	Student Name	2025	1	On Track	All set	Passing all	Below 80%	1: Very Likely	0	2	Reg
881611528	Student Name	2025	1	On Track	All set	Passing all	Below 80%	1: Very Likely	0	0	Adv

Rows: 68 of 411

Buttons: Density, Share, Export CSV, ?

Student Profile



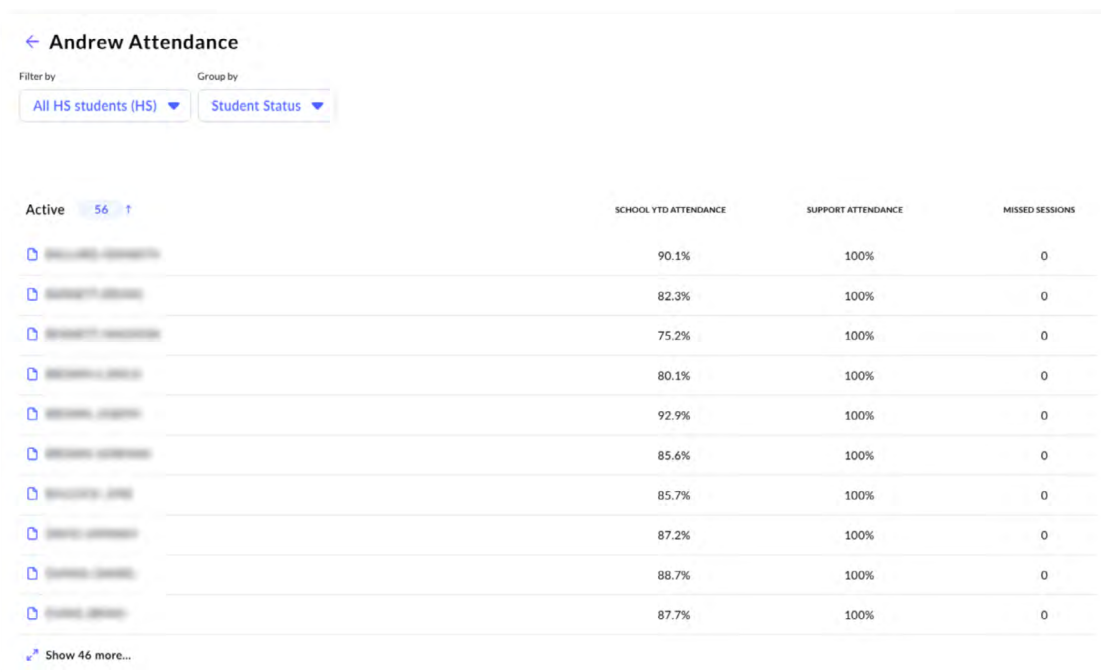
Core 4

Core 4 is functionality in the Portal to help schools monitor graduation progress. If a student has one or more alerts, the Portal will help educators take action to support the student.

Core 4 alerts include:

- **Attendance:** students with less than 80% attendance in the last 20 days (missing 4+ of the last 20 days)
- **Credits:** students behind in credits needed for graduation
- **Grades:** students failing one or more courses
- **Regents:** students behind in Regents needed for graduation

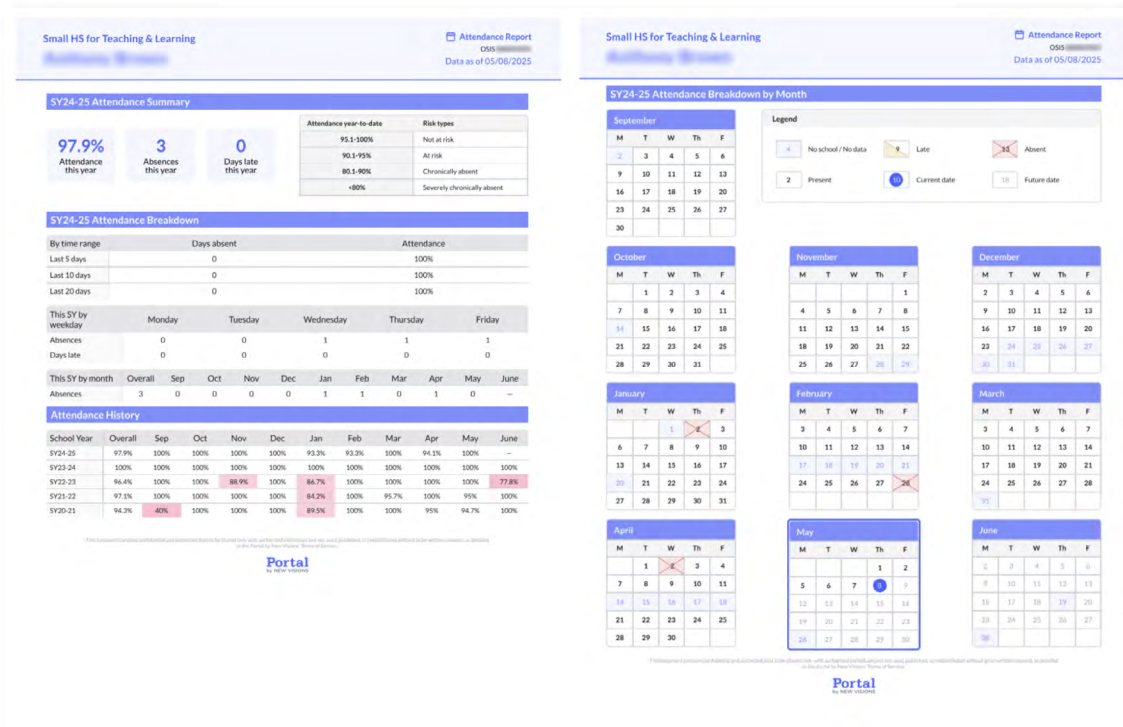
Attendance: For students flagged for attendance concerns, schools can add a note to capture qualitative information, generate a PDF with a summary of the student's attendance to help inform a conference with the student and family, and assign the student to a structured intervention (e.g., mentoring).



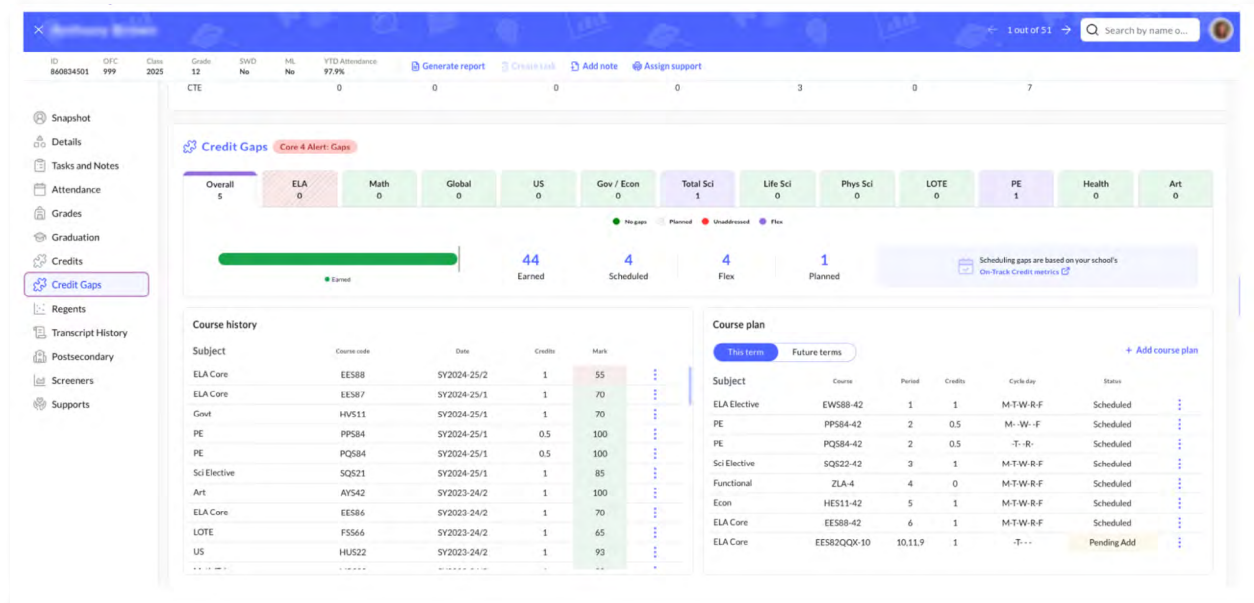
The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Andrew Attendance". It includes a "Filter by" dropdown set to "All HS students (HS)" and a "Group by" dropdown set to "Student Status". Below the filters, there is a table with the following columns: "Active" (with a count of 56 and an upward arrow), "SCHOOL YTD ATTENDANCE", "SUPPORT ATTENDANCE", and "MISSED SESSIONS". The table lists 10 students with their respective attendance percentages and missed sessions. A link "Show 46 more..." is at the bottom of the table.

Active	SCHOOL YTD ATTENDANCE	SUPPORT ATTENDANCE	MISSED SESSIONS
56 ↑			
[icon] [Name]	90.1%	100%	0
[icon] [Name]	82.3%	100%	0
[icon] [Name]	75.2%	100%	0
[icon] [Name]	80.1%	100%	0
[icon] [Name]	92.9%	100%	0
[icon] [Name]	85.6%	100%	0
[icon] [Name]	85.7%	100%	0
[icon] [Name]	87.2%	100%	0
[icon] [Name]	88.7%	100%	0
[icon] [Name]	87.7%	100%	0
Show 46 more...			

Attendance PDF Report



Credits: If a student shows a credit alert, the Portal includes the option to add a scheduling plan to either resolve the gap in the current term or in a future term. Future term plans are typically made when the course is either not offered during the current term or the student doesn't have room in their program for additional courses or swaps.



Grades: When a student has a grades alert, the school can use the Portal to assign that student to some type of academic support (e.g., tutoring) and can take attendance for the assigned intervention. This functionality helps schools easily see if the student is currently participating and evaluate if, after receiving intervention, their grades have improved from one marking period to the next.

Regents: A Regents flag means that a student has not yet passed an exam needed to be on track for graduation. To address these alerts, schools use the Portal to schedule the student for an upcoming or administration of the exam. In addition, if a student is scheduled for an exam but not yet enrolled in an aligned course, the system will flag this inconsistency, enabling schools to strategically assign the student to appropriate support for exam preparation. Below is an example of how that looks in the student profile.

Regents

Core 4 Alert: All set

Summary
2 of 5

ELA
65

Math
57

Sci
WG

SS
64

Plus 1
60

Regents

Planned diploma

57

Max score

3

Number of attempts

No

Scheduled

1

Pending plans

Regents behind are based on your school's [Regents metrics](#)

Math history

Exam history All history

SY24-25	Course/exam name	Course/exam code	Grade/score
Term 1	Course title	MGS31	80

SY23-24	Course/exam name	Course/exam code	Grade/score
June	Algebra	Algebra	56
Term 2	MRS31	MRS31	85
Jan	Algebra	Algebra	57
Term 1	MES33	MES33	90

SY22-23	Course/exam name	Course/exam code	Grade/score
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Regents plans

Next admin Future admins + Add Regents plan

Subject	Scheduled in source system	Supporting courses	Regents prep supports
SS	Not scheduled	HUS22-32	Needs support
Math	Not scheduled	MGS32	Needs support

Impact on Practice

Users have shared that the tools save time and help them focus on the relationships and intervention actions that matter for students. NYCPS schools with higher usage of the Portal have outpaced schools who do not use it in attendance, Regents, and graduation metrics.

"The Portal and Core 4 have been a game-changer in how I support my students. Having immediate access to a holistic view of each student—their academic performance, attendance records, and even assessment data—allows me to identify potential challenges and intervene proactively. Instead of relying on various systems and time-consuming data collection, I can now quickly pinpoint students who might need additional support, whether it's academic counseling, social-emotional resources, or college and career guidance. This efficiency allows me to spend more quality time directly engaging with students, developing personalized plans and connecting them with the right resources at the right time. The Core 4 features have truly empowered me to be a more effective advocate for my students' overall well-being and success."

—Stephen B., High School Guidance Counselor

Prevention-Focused Mindset

- Counselors and support staff can now visualize each student's multi-year graduation pathway before finalizing course schedules, identifying potential credit shortfalls before they occur. This forward-looking capability ensures students are enrolled in required courses at optimal times.
- The Portal's attendance tracking has transformed chronic absenteeism response by automating early identification of concerning patterns. This systematic approach helps schools address attendance issues before they significantly impact academic performance.

Data-Informed Intervention Planning

- The Portal has transformed how educators respond to student needs by providing actionable alerts and structured intervention pathways. School staff now have a systematic process for addressing key graduation risk factors, moving from reactive to proactive support.
- The ability to both assign specific academic interventions and track student participation and attendance in these support sessions within the Portal creates a closed-loop intervention system. Now staff can assess if intervention participation leads to improvement, allowing for targeted adjustment of support strategies based on effectiveness data.

- By centralizing intervention documentation, the Portal supports improved coordination among different staff members working with the same students. Counselors, teachers, and administrators have visibility into all interventions a student is receiving, creating a more coherent support experience and ideally preventing duplication of efforts or gaps in service.
- NYCPS schools with higher usage of the Portal have outpaced schools who do not use it in attendance, Regents, and graduation metrics.

Key Insights

Critical Success Factors

- User-Centered Design: Involving NYCPS educators and support staff throughout the design process ensured the Portal addressed real workflow needs rather than just administrative priorities.
- School Customization: By allowing schools to configure when specific courses are offered and when students are expected to pass certain Regents exams, the system generates alerts based on each school's unique academic sequence.
- End-to-End Intervention Tracking: Building comprehensive workflows that connect identification, assignment, documentation, and outcome measurement enables evidence-based decision making.
- Task-based Training: Rather than overwhelming staff with all features at once, training was integrated with relevant seasonal tasks, making it more approachable and immediately actionable.
- Ongoing Support Infrastructure: A dedicated Portal Support Team and in-app chat feature ensure users receive timely assistance.

Recommendations for Other Districts

- Focus on Prevention First: Implement systems that flag potential graduation obstacles before they occur, as preventive action requires fewer resources than remediation.
- Build Closed-Loop Workflows: Track the full cycle from alert to intervention to outcome measurement to avoid accountability gaps.
- Prioritize Usable Systems: Design around actual staff workflows rather than accountability metrics; simpler systems that address core functionality get used consistently.

Thank you to the following team members for their exceptional commitment to student success and willingness to share their innovative data practices:

- Mark Dunetz, President, New Visions for Public Schools
- Nikki Giunta, Chief of Staff, New Visions for Public Schools

To explore the complete stories, implementation insights, and lessons learned from other innovative schools and districts, check out the [full District-Led Innovation Showcase report](#).

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