



**At the Co-op School,
learning begins
with joy.**



Head of School Search

Brooklyn, New York
Position starts July 2023
www.thecoopschool.org



EDUCATORS COLLABORATIVE
EXPERTS IN SEARCH, TRANSITION & STRATEGY

Mission

The mission of The Co-op School is to inspire passion and teach children to become protagonists in their own educational journey by fostering their innate sense of curiosity and creativity. The Co-op School facilitates joyful learning through a unique and rigorous constructivist approach that listens to and honors the individual interests and strengths of each child. The Co-op School doesn't just belong to the students and educators, but extends to the family community as a whole. It belongs to those who participate in it, and is a more resilient and creative place because of it.



We nurture each student's innate curiosity and enthusiasm, making education a process of supported discovery.

Overview

The Co-op School is a 2s through eighth grade learning community, guided by the core values of compassion, uniqueness, innovation, community action, anti-racism and joy.

Our talented and dedicated teachers guide students in the dynamic, life-long process of questioning and making connections. As students learn to work together, preparing for their place in a global environment, families also work within committees and on the board of trustees to support the school (each family serves on a committee and contributes at least 8 hours of labor each year to care for our school, create community events, and manage school initiatives).

At this time, we are looking for a Head of School, who wholeheartedly embraces the school's unique culture, to maintain its high academic standards and strengthen the school's foundations for continued growth and success.

At a Glance

Total Students: 210

Students of Color: 44%

Faculty & Admin: 50

Student/Teacher Ratio: 7 to 1

Financial Aid: \$950,000

Students receiving Financial Aid: 26%





History

The Co-op School was founded in 2003 by a group of parents who saw the need for a high-quality and affordable preschool option in the Clinton Hill and Fort Greene neighborhoods. Since then, the Co-op School has matured from a small, parent-run playgroup to a fully staffed and licensed non-profit school.

After residing in two prior homes in Clinton Hill, The Co-op School moved into 87 Irving Place in the fall of 2009. In 2011, The Co-op School launched the first kindergarten class of its elementary program at 40 Brevoort Place. In 2019, we opened our doors at 644 Gates Avenue in the Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood—in a 3,500-square-foot building with a double-height gym, a rooftop library, and two playgrounds—housing our preschool, lower school, and middle school students under one roof.



Through dynamic, collaborative work and play, students learn to ask questions, seek answers, and reflect.

Learn More About the Co-op School
(click on the links)

<p>Academics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pre-School ▪ Lower School ▪ Middle School <p>Academic Events</p>	<p>School Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-op Commitment ▪ Community Events ▪ Community Initiatives ▪ Health & Wellness ▪ After-School Enrichment ▪ Summer Camp
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Parent Community

The Co-op School is comprised of families who are deeply committed to participating in the creation of their children's educational environment and are brought together by a desire to pitch in and participate to provide their children with a quality education at an accessible price.

As such, students' families are responsible for the development, fundraising, and maintenance of the school. The Board of Trustees is comprised of elected parents, and all parents share the responsibility of upholding the school's guiding principles. Parents are required to contribute through committee work or by participating in work shifts. The participation of each family is critical for the effective operation of the school, and the cooperative model engenders a unique sense of ownership and belonging.

The Co-op School hosts a number of annual events to bring our students and family members together. These events not only create a greater sense of community, but they also help raise money for our school.

Within our nurturing cooperative community, each student knows they are supported, encouraged, and accountable.



Through far-reaching academic inquiries, students learn to make connections, solve problems, and build the future they want to see.

Opportunities and Challenges

Communicate clearly and broadly the distinctive value of progressive education and The Co-op School experience to recruit and retain mission-aligned students, faculty, and staff.

Foster a professional culture rooted in a shared commitment to progressive education, continued professional growth, collaboration, and respect **that supports a healthy and inspiring work environment.**

Continue to develop **a shared understanding of the school's commitment to diversity, inclusivity, equity, and social justice**, that is reflected in faculty hiring, student recruitment, and curriculum design, and nurtures a culture of belonging for all students, faculty, staff, parents, and community members.

Following a period of significant change, **strive to repair and restore relationships among faculty and staff**, building a foundation of trust and respect centered on the shared focus on joyful learning for children.

In partnership with the Board, **develop a sustainable long-term financial plan**, including realistic enrollment, tuition, staffing, and fundraising projections that support faculty/staff retention, a strong academic programs and socio-economic diversity.

Lead the school in putting down roots in its new location through the development organization partnerships, neighborhood engagement, and student recruitment initiatives.



Desired Leadership Profile for the Next Head of School



Demonstrated success and expertise as an educator, with a pedagogical understanding of progressive education, curriculum development, student assessment and outcomes, and faculty support and evaluation.

A commitment to servant leadership that includes delegating responsibility, empowering and inspiring others, working in partnership, and holding people accountable to support continued professional and personal growth.

A deep love for children, an earnest belief in joyful learning, and **unbridled enthusiasm for the school's compelling mission** of fostering curiosity and creativity.

An unwavering personal and professional commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice coupled with the capacity to support others in this work.

Capacity to facilitate inclusive dialogue, make difficult decisions, **have courageous conversations, listen deeply, and build trust.**

Proficient understanding of strategic financial sustainability, budget development, student and faculty recruitment and retention, fundraising, and enrollment management.



An inspiring communicator who is warm, personable, and approachable, and can speak passionately about the mission of The Co-op in support of enrollment and fundraising efforts.

A visionary who can **think strategically in partnership with the Board, capably to execute plans to** bring initiatives to fruition, and manage community expectations and the impact of change.

Charismatic and skilled in building relationships within and beyond the The Co-op community to extend and deepen the school's impact as a member of the Bed-Stuy neighborhood.

Familiarity with the educational landscape—public and private—in the New York City metropolitan area.



We are committed to creating spaces where our students can excel throughout the year.

To Apply

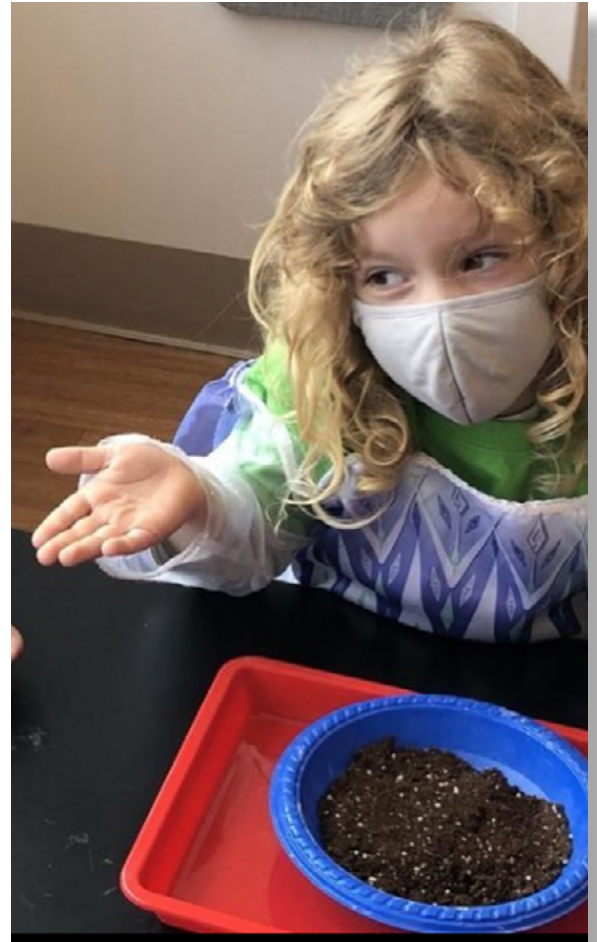
Candidates interested in this position are asked to submit the following materials in a single merged pdf file to Tracy Bennett and Mary Seppala:

- EC Summary Sheet and Disclosure Statement (Contact Tracy Bennett for these documents)
- Letter of Interest addressed to the Search Committee
- Current Resume
- Statement of Educational Leadership Philosophy
- A list of five or more references with contact information (name, relationship to candidate, phone and email addresses)

Send application materials via email to:

Tracy Bennett, Partner, Educators Collaborative
Email: tbennett@educatorscollaborative.com
Phone: 425-466-4748

Mary Seppala, Partner, Educators Collaborative
Email: maryseppala@gmail.com
Phone: (610) 772-7625



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