

INVENT THE FUTURE CHALLENGE 2018/19

Suggested Strategy for Student Recruitment

Each school is encouraged to recruit students in a way that makes sense for its particular context. One of the main goals of the partnership between MCPS and KID Museum is to engage students in STEM who have traditionally been underrepresented in those fields: Girls and Black and Latino students. **Schools whose Invention Studio visits are funded by MCPS are expected to recruit and retain a cohort of 30 students.**

Students may be identified in a variety of ways:

- Student data
- Teacher recommendations
- Application process
- Specific class or club

Step 1: Identify 40-45 students, in order to fill 30 spaces in cohort.

Step 2: Invite targeted students to an information session during lunch or after school, during which you would explain the program and give them an invitation to an evening information session for both parents and students. (See Sample Invitation in Challenge Handbook)

Step 3: Make phone calls to all parents of targeted students, inviting them to the event and confirming their participation.

Sample Phone Script in English: Good evening, my name is _____ and I am a _____ teacher at _____ Middle School. I am calling to let you know that your son/daughter _____ has been selected to participate in Invent the Future Challenge, a special STEM program and partnership between MCPS and KID Museum. I am so excited to offer this opportunity to him/her; he/she is going to love it! We are hosting an information session for parents on _____ at _____. Will you be able to make it?

Sample Phone Script in Spanish: Buenas tardes, me llamo _____ y soy un/una profesor/a de _____ en _____ Middle School. Estoy llamando para avisarle que su hijo/a _____ ha sido seleccionado/a para participar en el Desafío para Inventar el Futuro, un programa especial de ciencias, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas. Este programa viene de una colaboración entre MCPS y KID Museum. Estoy muy emocionado/a de ofrecerle esta oportunidad; le va a encantar a él/ella. Va a haber una sesión informativa para padres el _____ a las _____. ¿Podemos contar con su presencia?

Step 4: Host information session for parents and students. For schools with large Spanish-speaking populations, we encourage you to have an interpreter or to host back to back sessions, one in English and one in Spanish. If possible, have a packet with permission slips and contract (See Sample Permission Slips and Contract in Challenge Handbook) ready for parents and students to sign and hand in before the end of the evening.

Step 5: Once students and families have committed to participating in the Challenge, teachers and counselors of all students involved should be informed of the Challenge and what it entails. Teachers must be informed ahead of time regarding when visits to KID will occur, especially if it involves missing class time.