

PROSE Application Template 2021-2022 Cohort

The Progressive Redesign Opportunity Schools for Excellence (PROSE) program was established because of our shared belief that the challenges faced by city schools can best be solved by school communities and the expertise of those who practice our profession every day. And this is most likely to happen when the full school community works together through structures that sustain school level collaboration. Thus, PROSE provides collaborative schools with an opportunity to surface the successful approaches they currently implement, and to implement new ones, even when those approaches lie outside of existing regulations and policies. Ultimately, the PROSE Panel may share those new practices and policies with the entire NYC school community to foster continuous innovation and improvement throughout the five boroughs.

Participation in PROSE offers the following to schools:

- The ability to make changes to school structures outside of existing regulations, including use of time and the role of administration, teachers, and students in teaching and learning
- The ability to ensure that school innovations happen with the input and leadership of teachers and other school staff in collaboration with their administrators
- Participation in a community of forward-thinking, collaborative and innovative schools
- The ability to institutionalize key innovative practices
- Opportunities to share experiences that inform NYC education policy

Timeline:

- Schools apply to PROSE by completing the questions below and submitting the responses to the PROSE Panel via the online platform, which will open by **February 5th**.
- The Deadline for submission is **March 12th**.
- Final decisions by the Panel will be made by April 9th and then the Panel will work with your school to create a PROSE ballot for voting.

Support materials for completion of the application will be available. Materials include the [PROSE Application Rubric](#), which helps the Panel assess the school for:

- Strong partnership and collaboration between UFT employees and CSA administrators
- Strong family and community engagement
- Innovative ideas that are well-matched with the flexibilities requested
- A strong plan for implementation of their proposal
- A strong record of current success and the capacity for continuous improvement

All applications must have the approval of their School Leadership Team. After review, the Panel will invite schools with successful applications to conduct a vote to become a PROSE school. The Panel will work with the school to refine its plan prior to voting, and schools will join PROSE and be able to implement the elements of the plan that the Panel has approved only upon ratification by 65% of all UFT-represented employees voting.

School Narrative Template

**In these Covid times we are trying not to overwhelm our schools.
Therefore, each response is limited to 500 words.**

1. This has been an extremely challenging year for our schools, and we are interested in knowing how your school managed during this Covid crisis. Therefore:
 - a. If your school's goals and priorities shifted as a result of Covid and the remote world, please tell us about that.
 - b. We'd also like to know about any approaches your school took this year to support students and the school community. Those approaches might focus on academics and/or your community's emotional well-being.
2. Describe 2-3, teacher-led practices in place at your school and the steps taken to ensure collaborative, quality implementation and positive impact on achievement.
3. Describe:
 - a) the goals your school wants to accomplish through its participation in PROSE; *and*
 - b) the innovation/s you would like to pursue to meet those goals. *This might be contract modifications, but it is not required.*
4. Briefly outline the process you used to build your school's PROSE application. This process should demonstrate that your application was developed collaboratively with, and has the strong support of, both UFT and CSA members, in addition to the agreement of your School Leadership Team.
5. Briefly describe how the school intends to use the PROSE program to provide employees with decision-making input and authority. As part of their proposals, schools may establish committees consisting of key school-based stakeholders to examine resource allocation, schedules, curriculum, technology, professional development, hiring, and parent engagement.
6. Assurance: The School Leadership Team has approved this application.

Contact Information for Principal, Chapter Leader, and PA/PTA President (include name, title, and email address for each member)