



New York State My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge How Your Community Can Improve Outcomes for Boys and Young Men of Color

New York State's My Brother's Keeper (NYSMBK) initiative is designed to encourage school districts, colleges and universities, and community groups to join forces in this critical mission. Mayors, Tribal leaders, and County Executives are uniquely positioned to bring stakeholders together to plan and implement a cradle-to-college and career strategy, consistent with the goals and recommendations of President Obama's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Task Force.

The ***NYSMBK Community Challenge*** asks communities (cities, counties, and Tribal Nations) to work with community leaders, educators, business leaders and youth development experts across sectors to design and implement action plans that expand opportunities for all young people, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born. By accepting the NYSMBK challenge, your city, county or Tribal Nation commits to take the necessary actions to develop and execute programs and strategies designed to help boys and young men of color - and all youth – realize their full potential.

To learn more about the NYSMBK initiative, visit www.NYSED.gov/NYSMBK. To get started with your NYSMBK Community Challenge, commit to taking the following steps:

Step #1: Accept the NYSMBK Challenge

A joint letter between the school district superintendent and a mayor, county executive or tribal leader officially accepting the NYSMBK Challenge is sent to the New York State Education Department's **Office of Access, Equity, and Community Engagement Services** (NYSMBK@nysed.gov). Please include the name of your point of contact. Post this joint letter on the district website as a demonstration of commitment to accepting the NYSMBK Challenge.

Step #2: Convene a "Local Action Summit" To Build a NYSMBK Community

This effort will require a coalition of partners with an ownership stake in the strategy, and a sense of empowerment to help lead the effort. Within **45** days of your commitment, host a Local Action Summit with key stakeholders, including students, to assess needs and assets and determine priorities.

Step #3: Conduct a Policy and Data Review and Formulate Recommendations for Action

Immediately following your Local Action Summit, direct a working group of pertinent stakeholders, including students, to examine existing local policies, programs, and practices in search of ways to introduce or expand on existing efforts to better serve the needs of the community's youth.

The working group should assess the impact of both existing and proposed programs. Within **120** days of your commitment, this body should produce a report with recommendations for action on your selected areas of focus related to the NYSMBK priorities as listed below, standards for tracking and sharing data across public agencies and community partners, and structural recommendations for institutionalizing the effort until goals are reached.

National MBK Milestones	NYSMBK Priorities
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Entering School Ready to Learn;2. Reading at Grade Level by 3rd Grade;3. Graduate from High School;4. Complete Post-secondary Education or Training;5. All Youth Out of School are Employed; and6. All Youth Remain Safe from Violent Crime.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensuring equitable access to high quality schools and programs;2. Expanding prevention, early warning and intervention services;3. Using differentiated approaches based on need and culture;4. Responding to structural and institutional racism;5. Making comprehensive and coordinated support services widely available; and6. Engaging families and communities in a trusted and respectful way.

Step #4: Develop and Launch an Action Plan, Next Steps and a Timetable for Review

Within **180** days of your commitment, convene key partners, including students, to publicly launch a plan of action for accomplishing selected goals based on the results of your policy review. It should include a protocol for tracking data, benchmarks and timelines for review to ensure the transparent assessment of progress towards goals, and the open examination and retooling of ineffective strategies. Include a blueprint for resourcing your efforts which outlines plans to use or redirect existing resources, new public or private sector commitments, and specific areas where additional commitments, investments, or partnerships could help your community reach its NYSMBK goals and help potential new partners target their involvement.

Ready, Set, Go

An official notification letter will be provided to you indicating that you are now an MBK community. Once you notify the **Office of Access, Equity, and Community Engagement Services** that you are committed to taking action, we will begin connecting you with other NYSMBK Communities and sending you notifications to take part in technical assistance and convenings for NYSMBK Communities and other localities working to address persistent opportunity gaps and ensuring all youth can achieve their full potential.

For more information, on NYSMBK visit www.nysed.gov/NYSMBK or email us at NYSMBK@NYSED.gov.