



Brooklyn Distinguished Principal

Ailene Altman Mitchell

Intermediate School 88

Principal Mitchell is a systems and structure-oriented, high-impact education leader recognized for having transformed Brooklyn's Middle School 88 into a model middle school educating all learners. Ailene's core belief is that students learn best in an intimate setting with personalized, blended learning attuned to their needs and strengths. Her passion for educating all students transformed M.S. 88 from one of the most challenged New York City Public Schools into one of the most prominent middle schools in the United States. As a foundational member of Chancellor Carmen Fariña's signature instructional initiative, Learning Partners Program, Ailene's school was spotlighted as an innovator host model school. In recognition of her work Ailene was named Master Principal from 2015 to 2017, serving as a mentor to NYC public school principals. As a definitive voice on personalized learning to raise student achievement, she has presented at Discovery Education's Future Now Conference, ASCD conference, International Conference on Education, Discovery Education Leadership Summit, ISTE Conference on Blended Learning, and the NYC DOE Chancellor's Conferences. Ailene has been serving as an alumni advisor to the Cahn Fellows Program for Distinguished Principals since 2017. She previously served on the advisory board of Columbia University's Center for Environmental Research and Conservation Graduate Program from 2008-2015, and is a member of the Leaders on Innovation's Digital Promise League of Schools.