



— Overview of New York City Launch —

This fall, Pilot Light, a chef-founded Food Education non-profit, is launching its inaugural chapter in New York City. The announcement comes as NYC public schools return from summer break and begin to roll out their new Food Education standards, modeled after Pilot Light's first-of-their-kind standards and in collaboration with the organization.

The new chapter is the next phase of Pilot Light's presence in NYC. For the past four years, Pilot Light has been one of just two Food Education organizations with a formal partnership with New York City Public Schools. The partnership enabled them to work with over 100 educators across the city to implement Food Education in their classrooms and connect them with community partners, like chefs and urban gardens, to expand learning beyond the classroom.

— What Does This Mean for NYC Teachers and Students? —

By using Pilot Light's first-of-their-kind Food Education Standards as a framework, NYC Public Schools designed its own standards to best fit the unique needs of its schools, educators, and students. NYC Public Schools is the first large-scale example of how a district can take Pilot Light's Standards and use them as pillars to inform and craft their own. These district-wide standards mean that every student, in every school, will have the opportunity to learn about the power of food and gain the tools to become knowledgeable, informed changemakers for a better food system.

“Pilot Light has been an invaluable partner to New York City Public Schools and an inspiration for the future of food education in our public schools. We’re honored that they have chosen our hometown to launch their first official chapter and are excited to watch our partnership continue to grow.”

— Jeremy Walter, Deputy Executive Director of NYC Public Schools.



— What Does This Mean for Pilot Light? —

After years of organic growth, the launch of this educator-led chapter marks the first established chapter outside of Pilot Light's Chicago headquarters and an important step as the organization looks to deepen its national impact.

New York City's vibrant food scene, diverse cultures, sense of community, and new Food Education standards make the city an exciting and natural spot for Pilot Light's first chapter launch, and a great model to be replicated in cities and states around the country.

— Key Stats —

Since 2022, Pilot Light has been a partner to NYC Public Schools and NYC educators. The new chapter will expand Pilot Light's reach to even more schools across the city.

Since 2022, Pilot Light

- Works with **128 educators**
- Reaches **2,560 students**
- Across **all five NYC boroughs**

“What Pilot Light is doing is so compelling because it enables children—all children—to engage in the kind of experiential learning about food that excites and stays with them as life-long-learning. It’s an approach that is scalable and has the legs to be of great educational and social value across the nation.”

- John Allegrante, Professor of Health Education, Teachers College Columbia University