Diploma Plus
Stages of School Design, Implementation, and Start-Up

DISCOVERY

"We want to start a DP school and need to fully understand the model."

- Recruit and inform design team
- Collect/share information and data
- Hone mission
- Conduct strategic planning
- Develop start-up workplan
- Receive TA & support

Breakthrough

-Design team informed and engaged
-Initial workplan crafted
-Next steps defined

DESIGN

"Our DP school is going to look like this and produce these results."

- Develop vision
- Regularly engage design team
- Cultivate community support
- Determine school type, governance & location
- Create detailed workplan
- Specify measurable outcomes

Breakthrough

-DP Essentials defined
-Necessary approvals in place
-Governance structure in place
-Facility and resources secured

DEFINITION

"Our school will address the DP Essentials in these ways."

- Implement plans to address the DP Essentials
- Recruit core staff
- Develop communications plan
- Create plans for curriculum and instruction
- Define staffing structure and school norms

Breakthrough

-School and instructional leaders hired
-Plan for addressing all DP Essentials implemented
-Communications strategy in place
-Curriculum being developed

COMMUNICATION

"This is what our DP school is about and here is how you can participate."

- Engage in professional development activities
- Build community awareness
- Communicate plans and opportunities
- Cultivate partners
- Develop curriculum
- Recruit teachers, staff, and students

Breakthrough

-Teachers and staff recruited
-Students recruited
-Community and business partners identified

PREPARATION

"Here is what you need to know and do to support the implementation of our DP school."

- Conduct staff orientations & professional development activities
- Develop & communicate school policies & procedures
- Complete curriculum
- Provide orientations for students & parents/guardians
- Complete operations preparation

Breakthrough

-Students enrolled
-Teachers prepared
-DP Essentials in place
-Facility ready

DIPLOMA PLUS SCHOOL OPENS

- Use data to drive decision making
- Monitor progress and adjust approaches
- Conduct regular staff development activities
- Implement continuous improvement strategies

Prepared for Diploma Plus and the Commonwealth Corporation by New Ways to Work 2006