



About Acera

Inspiring the Innovators and Leaders Of Tomorrow

Acera, the Massachusetts School of Science, Creativity and Leadership, is a progressive non-profit STEAM school serving high-ability students in grades K through 8th. At Acera, students learn by ability, not age; in a supportive, engaging environment, enabled by highly motivated, experienced teacher-entrepreneurs.

At a Glance:

- 2016-2017 School Year: 128 K-8 students.
- 2017-18 Tuition: Elementary (grades K-5): \$20,900; Middle School (grades 6-8): \$21,800.
- Students consistently participate in Model UN conferences, national math competitions, and nationally normed (standardized) reading and math tests.
- Towns Served: In MA: Winchester, Medford, Woburn, Boston, Danvers, Newton, Arlington, Lexington, Wakefield, Belmont, Andover, Brookline, Cambridge, Malden, Burlington, Melrose, Reading, Sudbury, Concord, Somerville, Allston; Concord, NH and Nashua, NH.
- Financial Aid available for day program and after school/summer program.
- Understands and addresses the needs of different learning profiles, such as visual-spatial and kinesthetic learners, highly creative and twice exceptional students.



Mission: The Acera School safeguards the innate curiosity of every child and inspires students to become the problem-solvers, innovators, creative thinkers and leaders of tomorrow. Further, we seek to be a microcosm of what is possible in education, and engage communities in a new dialogue about innovation, creativity and joy in education.

Approach

Acera was founded in 2010, seeking to pioneer a forward-thinking, evidence-based, replicable model for education. We take a renaissance approach by engaging the whole child in project-based, contextual learning across disciplines. Our learning spaces are a crucial part of the learning process and include flexible classrooms, a fully equipped science lab, maker spaces, a wood shop and the SEEDS StudioLab.



Our Team

Acera brings together a team of passionate, expert educators and administrators with a shared vision of boundless learning. We believe in inspiring, facilitating and empowering, not lecturing. Our teachers hold advanced degrees from leading institutions such as MIT, Harvard, Williams College, Brandeis, Tufts, and Yale. Many are professionals turned educators with expertise in design, biotech, neuroscience, engineering, computer science, journalism, architecture, humanities and the arts.

Collaborations

Collaborations with leading area thinkers, entrepreneurs and educational institutions are at the heart of our model. As a lab school, Acera has the unique opportunity to research and pilot new approaches to education. Acera Curriculum Partners and collaborators include:

Social Development and Learning Lab at Boston University; MIT Media Lab; MIT Center for Microbiome Informatics and Therapeutics; Tufts Center for Engineering Education and Outreach; Handel and Haydn Society; Music & Neuroimaging Lab at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital and Harvard University, Amino Biolabs.

Acera in the Community

Aiming to drive change in education, we share lessons learned from our evolving school model widely, and make engaging STEAM education available to external students in a variety of ways. Our community programs include:

- The Acera STEAM Learning Lab: After school, vacation & summer camps, and weekend workshops. Open to all.
- Acera's Innovator Symposium: A research & innovation expo, where hundreds engage with scientists and inventors, and their groundbreaking work. Free and open to all.
- Events at local STEAM festivals, such as the Cambridge Science Festival and Boston Design Week.
- Acera Teachers presenting at national conferences held by, for example, the Computer Science Teachers Association and the International Society for Technology in Education.
- Free STEAM workshops for students in communities of high poverty, and trainings for public school teachers on how to incorporate hands-on STEAM learning into existing curriculum.

