



NEW ROOTS CHARTER SCHOOL

A Public High School Committed to Sustainability Education and Social Justice

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NEW ROOTS CHARTER SCHOOL FAQs

NEW ROOTS FOR NEW TIMES

The climate is changing. The economy is changing. Technology is taking on a life of its own! The New Roots curriculum grounds young people in these turbulent times with a personalized education that allows them to understand their own passions, talents and strengths, teaches the “soft” skills of leadership and collaboration, and creates strong understanding and connections between the classroom curriculum, our community, and their lives.

WHAT MAKES NEW ROOTS' CURRICULUM UNIQUE AMONG AREA HIGH SCHOOLS?

The school's core curriculum has been designed around essential questions and themes so that the topics studied in different courses are related to each other. Courses are inquiry-oriented and project-based.

Students engage in extensive community service work, and apply their learning to projects that support our community's transition to greater economic and ecological sustainability.

We have an extended campus that includes our main building in the historic Clinton House located in the heart of downtown Ithaca, TC3's downtown campus, area farms, businesses, organizations, and natural areas.

HOW DOES NEW ROOTS PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE?

All New Roots graduates earn college credits through TC3's CollegeNow Program for concurrent enrollment classes taken while in high school. Students can graduate with more than 40 college credits for completing core high school requirements through this program.

Our commitment to every young person is that if they engage with their education at New Roots, they will leave high school with college acceptance, college credits, and the qualifications necessary to receive a living wage job offer upon their high school graduation.

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED AT NEW ROOTS?

New Roots is designed as a small high school for up to 40 students per grade, or 160 overall. The actual number enrolled at each grade level can fluctuate depending on the courses that students at that level need and the size of the classrooms that hold them.

This allows for greater personalized attention to all students. Students develop a close working relationship with faculty members who supervise their academic progress and engagement.

DOES IT COST MONEY TO ATTEND NEW ROOTS?

No! New Roots Charter School is always tuition-free. Moreover, it is a non-profit organization.

We also offer FREE farm-to-school breakfast and lunch for every student, regardless of financial need. In partnership with the Food Donations Network, we support food availability to all New Roots families through our Newts Grocery Store Program.

DO NEW ROOTS STUDENTS HAVE TO MEET NEW YORK STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND TAKE REGENTS EXAMS?

Yes. Students will also meet New Roots graduation requirements, demonstrating mastery of essential skills and knowledge areas through the creation of an online digital graduation portfolio and a senior team capstone project.

DOES A STUDENT HAVE TO LIVE IN ITHACA TO ATTEND NEW ROOTS?

No. New Roots is open to any student who lives in NYS who is eligible to attend high school, regardless of school district of residence, space permitting.

HOW EASY IS IT TO TRANSFER HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS?

Very! All New Roots classes are aligned with New York graduation standards, the same as area high schools. Any credits you earn at another high school or by homeschooling can be easily transferred to New Roots, and vice versa. This includes mid-year transfers.



Discover what a personalized education can look like for you

