

NEU Application Packet



Dear Principal,

Thank you for your interest in the No Excuses University. Since the creation of the NEU Network in the spring of 2006, we have had the tremendous opportunity to help change the lives of thousands of students across this nation. It is our hope that your application to join our network will be a successful one and thus continue to add to this revolution.

As you know, we do not charge for this application, nor do we ask for any annual dues to be a part of the NEU Network of Schools. All we seek is to join together with like-minded educators who wish to promote college readiness for all students, no matter their circumstance. While this process is a simple one to complete, please know that the committee that oversees all applications takes their responsibility very seriously. Maintaining the integrity of the NEU model is paramount to each of us. Because of this, not all schools that apply are accepted. In fact, not all schools that are accepted are asked to remain in the NEU Network. Even though the NEU endeavor was created to work on every type of campus, only the boldest and most passionate schools are accepted into the NEU Network of Schools. In short, there are schools that promote college readiness and then there are schools who are No Excuses Universities.

If this sounds like a commitment that you and your staff are ready to make, then let's get started! In this packet you will find the following:

1. **Application Cover Sheet:** This page includes basic information that our committee needs to begin the review process.
2. **NEU Questions:** This page lists the seven questions that must be addressed in every written application. These questions make up the core of the application and are based on the lessons learned by attending a *TurnAround Schools Institute* or by reading the book *TurnAround Schools*.
3. **Video Guidelines:** This page describes the guidelines for every video that is required as part of the NEU application process.
4. **Application Checklist:** Just to make sure you don't forget anything, we've created a simple checklist to go over before you send in your application.

On behalf of my brother Dan and the team at TurnAround Schools, I wish you and your staff the very best as you pursue this very rewarding opportunity. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any questions along the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Damen Lopez'.

Damen Lopez
Founder, No Excuses University
damen@turnaroundschools.com



Application Cover Sheet

School Contact Information

School Name		Date of Application	
School Address			
Contact Name		Contact Position	
Contact Phone		Contact Email	

School Demographic Information

School Type <small>(K-5, K-8, Middle, etc.)</small>		Number of Students	
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Below, please list all statistically significant subgroups that exist at your school. This list should include ethnic, language, low socio-economic subgroups, and their percentage make-up.

SUB-GROUP	PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL



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NEU Questions

All questions within this application were written in conjunction with the lessons learned by attending a *TurnAround Schools Institute* or by reading the book *TurnAround Schools*. Schools will be selected based on their desire to embrace the six exceptional systems of a TurnAround School and also on their ability to make these systems the foundation of their work as a No Excuses University.

Please attach a typewritten response to each question listed below. Individual questions should be answered in 350 words or less.

1. Please document your school's successful progress and future plans as you develop an exceptional system in the area of a **culture of universal achievement**.
2. Please document your school's successful progress and future plans as you develop an exceptional system in the area of **collaboration**.
3. Please document your school's successful progress and future plans as you develop an exceptional system in the area of **standards alignment**.
4. Please document your school's successful progress and future plans as you develop an exceptional system in the area of **assessment**.
5. Please document your school's successful progress and future plans as you develop an exceptional system in the area of **data analysis**.
6. Please document your school's successful progress and future plans as you develop an exceptional system in the area of **academic and social interventions**.
7. Finally, please share detailed examples of **powerful college readiness symbolism** that is displayed throughout your campus.

Note: Each teacher/classroom should adopt an individual university and display a college flag or banner before applying to become a No Excuses University.



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Video Guidelines

All NEU applications must be accompanied by a video that is five minutes or less in length. This video supports our committee's desire to visualize your school in action. In an effort to support a successful video, please pay careful attention to the video **Do's** and **Don'ts** listed below.

DO

- Include interviews from students, staff, and parents.
- Focus on the creations of exceptional systems and the promotion of college readiness.
- Display examples of powerful symbolism, especially those related to college readiness.
- Feel free to show pictures along with recorded footage.
- Keep your video under five minutes.
- Make sure that your video will play on a mac computer or regular DVD player.

DON'T

- Send random footage unrelated to the seven questions listed in this application.
- Send videos or disks that only contain pictures without narration or some form of testimonial from members of your school community.
- Forget to display college readiness symbolism.



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Application Checklist

Before you mail your application, please review and understand the following items listed below.

- Has a team of staff members, including your principal, attended a TurnAround Schools Institute?
- Please note that all applications will be reviewed by the NEU Selection Committee within 30 days of their receipt. Those listed as the “contact” will be informed of a decision within this time period.
- Remember, while every application will be thoroughly reviewed, not every school will be invited to join the NEU Network of Schools.
- Please note that schools invited into the NEU Network will be required to take part in a yearly re-application review. While this process is far less intensive than this original application, it is intended to ensure the continued successful implementation of the NEU model. Only schools who display consistent success and improvement will be asked to remain within the NEU Network of Schools.
- Has your staff adopted individual universities for each classroom?
- Did you include your application cover sheet?
- Did you include your written application containing documentation about the six exceptional systems and powerful symbolism?
- Did you include your DVD/Video?

**TurnAround Schools
c/o NEU Application
17265 Prairie Mile Road
Ramona, CA 92065**



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