



# Build Challenges

Minecraft build challenges offer a great way to engage students and educators in creative projects, problem solving and celebrating the community. Challenges don't have to be competitive; they can be an exciting way to bring the community together to solve a problem and celebrate the ideas and creativity of the students. School communities have run Minecraft challenges all over the world, with themes ranging from sustainability and urban planning to history and post disaster reconstruction.



Build Challenges present an opportunity for educators to use Minecraft to inspire students in core school subjects, local issues, real-world problems or history. Build challenges start by posing a challenge to students and inviting them to design solutions.



We are happy to provide a Build Challenge Toolkit that outlines how to run a build challenge step by step, as well as how the Microsoft team can support this type of engagement.

A screenshot of the NYC Department of Education website. The page title is "Minecraft Education Challenge". The main heading is "2021 Minecraft Education Challenge to Build a Better Tomorrow!". The text describes the challenge: "The 2021 Minecraft Education Challenge to Build a Better Tomorrow for New York City! challenged students to use Minecraft: Education Edition to design and build a solution that supports sustainable communities and reduces inequities for everyone; whether in their home borough, neighborhood, or throughout New York City." It also mentions that Minecraft: Education Edition is free to all NYC Department of Education students and provides instructions on how to access their student account. The page includes a "Get Started with Minecraft Education Edition" section and a deadline for submissions: "The deadline to submit a build for the 2021 Minecraft Education Challenge has passed. Watch this video to learn more about the challenge and join us on June 11 for the live-build esports Battle of the Boroughs Competition! Stay tuned for more details coming soon! For questions, email us at STEM@schools.nyc.gov."

**Example:** The New York City DOE has been running district wide build challenges for 2 school years for their students from K-12. Build challenges not only positively engaged their community but were a catalyst for deeper professional development and curriculum alignment efforts. Students build against a prompt and develop a recording with voice-over explaining their approach and solution.

**Reach out to your team at Microsoft for more information on any of these programs!**

