The High School of Economics and Finance (HSEF) has been a PENCIL Partner school since 2005. In that time they have supported a number of PENCIL School Partnerships, each taking its own approach to helping students become college and career ready. Their most recent Partnership, with BNY Mellon, began in the fall of 2014.

The Team: The Principal and Assistant Principal lead efforts to recruit and support participating students. The BNY Mellon team is championed by Kate Debold, Vice President, Marketing & Corporate Affairs and includes nearly 30 BNY Mellon volunteers who carry out Partnership activities.

The Partnership: The BNY Mellon team has developed an ambitious Partnership plan to provide students with consistent support beginning in the 10th grade and continuing through graduation. The Principal works with BNY Mellon to identify high-potential 10th grade students who may be wavering in their commitment to a college education. The BNY Mellon team assigns each student a mentor who helps them to set out a plan to achieve their college goals. Over the next three years, the mentors meet regularly with their mentees in monthly Partnership sessions. The team of BNY Mellon volunteers facilitates sessions at both the school and the corporate office, with sessions focusing on a range of college planning and selection topics, designed to complement the school’s existing career-focused programming and help students achieve their college and career goals. The BNY Mellon team is comprised of professionally and ethnically diverse members who are able to connect session content to their own college and career experiences. In the 2015-16 school year, the BNY Mellon team is working with two cohorts of HSEF students: the 11th grade cohort in their second year of Partnership, and a new cohort of 10th graders.

The Outcomes: In 2015, students achieved a number of key benchmarks to on-time graduation:

- 94% understood what a professional network was and how it could help them in the future
- 94% were able to explain how their experiences were an asset in a variety of work environments
- 88% passed at least one math Regents exam
- 94% took the PSAT

Part of the Downtown Community: The High School of Economics and Finance has been part of the Downtown Manhattan Community for over 20 years. Founded with a mission to combine financial career education with a college preparatory education, the school has built formal relationships with over 20 downtown businesses and engaged hundreds of business professionals as volunteers.