



**Job Description:
Director of Technology**
6.22.20

About NYC Kids RISE

NYC Kids RISE is a nonprofit organization working to expand economic opportunity and equity by providing families, schools, and communities with a way to work together to save for their children's education. NYC Kids RISE manages the NYC Kids RISE Save for College Program as a public-private-community partnership with the NYC Department of Education (DOE) and the City of New York. The Save for College Program is a universal, community-driven wealth-building platform that provides families, schools and communities with a way to work together to save for their children's futures.

The Save for College Program launched a three-cohort pilot phase in School District 30 in Fall 2017. Now in its third school year, the Save for College Program has so far enrolled more than 10,000 kindergarten, first-grade, and second-grade students (around 95% of all the students in those grades across District 30) and opened an NYC Scholarship Account invested in a 529 plan with an \$100 initial deposit for each one. Their families can view this account online, open their own college savings account, and start saving their own money in the ways and amounts that make sense for their financial circumstances, earning additional scholarship rewards. At the same time, their communities can contribute to groups of these NYC Scholarship Accounts to further increase the savings in each child's account and demonstrate their community's support for every child's success. Together, these two accounts enable families, friends, schools, communities, and larger institutions and systems to work together to build assets and support expectations for each child's future.

NYC Kids RISE is driven by the belief that every NYC public school child should have a real financial asset for higher education, starting in kindergarten, and support from every part of their community to achieve educational and economic success. Based on the successes of the pilot phase, NYC Kids RISE is currently working with its public, private, and community partners to prepare to expand the Save for College Program beyond School District 30 to other NYC school districts. The ultimate vision is to create **a universal, community-driven wealth-building platform--embedded in homes, schools, and neighborhoods--across all 32 school districts in the NYC public school system. The hope is to be citywide in the next five years.** This approach draws from a variety of best practices and disciplines across the fields of asset building, child savings accounts, financial empowerment, education, community wealth building, urban poverty, neighborhood effects and social capital research, collective impact, and more.

Learn more about NYC Kids RISE and the Save for College Program at nyckidsrise.org.

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As a universal wealth-building platform for NYC's public school families and communities, the Save for College Program is underpinned by a technology platform that combines a) a family-facing portal that must meet the needs of NYC's diverse families across languages, computer capabilities, familiarity with financial products, traditions, and levels of trust in government and nonprofit institutions; and b) a back-end record-keeping system that integrates educational, financial, and other programmatic data from across public and private agencies. Key agency partners on both the programmatic data and technology infrastructure include the NYC Department of Education, the NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, NYC Cyber Command, and Ascensus Government Savings, among others. The effectiveness of this technology platform as an accessible and user-friendly public-facing resource for, ultimately, every NYC public school family--and as secure and efficient record-keeping and CRM system for NYC Kids RISE and its partners--has played and will continue to play a critical role in the Save for College Program's day-to-day operations and long-term impact.

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NYC Kids RISE seeks a creative, entrepreneurial, visionary, and experienced technology leader and manager to serve as the organization's first Director of Technology. The Director will be charged with both setting the long-term vision for the Save for College Program's technology infrastructure to advance the organizations' programmatic objectives, and ensuring the day-to-day excellent implementation of that vision in collaboration with the organization's leadership team and public-, private-, and nonprofit-sector partners. Ideal candidates will have a passion for building sustainable, scalable technology solutions and designing excellent, easy-to-use technology products for and in partnership with diverse users. The Director of Technology will collaborate with internal and external stakeholders, including consultants, school staff, community organizations, City and State agencies, financial institutions, and participating families to ensure state-of-the-art usability, design, functionality, and sustainability of the Save for College Program's technology platform for both its current user base (10,000+ families in School District 30) and its projected future user base (1.1+ million users across every NYC public school).

Key responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

- Lead the strategic direction of the Save for College Program's technology infrastructure to advance the Save for College Program's long-term vision as a citywide, universal, community-driven wealth-building platform, in coordination with senior leadership and external partners;
- Serve as the product owner of the organization's Outcome Tracker platform (a software provided by a company called VistaShare that serves as the Program's main technology system), ensuring both day-to-day functionality and continuous improvement;
- Lead all projects and initiatives related to the organization's programmatic technology, working with a team of external vendors, consultants, software providers, and security advisors. Includes evaluation, selection, and coordination of services;
- Oversee the continuous improvement of the frontend, parent facing portal, creating and integrating extremely user-friendly and accessible tools that enable diverse families to advance their children's educational and economic success and the success of their communities, complementing and magnifying the Program's neighborhood-based, networked approach;
- Oversee data infrastructure, record-keeping systems and other back-end infrastructure to support data security and privacy, operational efficiency, and programmatic impact;
- Liaise with programmatic and operational teams in each program area to ensure alignment of day-to-day and long-term technology priorities with organizational needs and goals;
- Support the training of staff, partners, and end-users to access and use the Program's technology systems;
- Define project metrics and ROI goals for initiatives, track performance post delivery, and communicate product performance regularly with stakeholders;
- Along with all NYC Kids RISE employees, maintain, and support other staff and volunteers to maintain, strict adherence to NYC Kids RISE data security and privacy policies; remaining vigilant on the ways in which NYC Kids RISE can continue to protect Confidential Information (including Student and Family Data); identify vulnerabilities, and proactively problem solve to improve controls and practices;
- Participate and share in the organization's work to advance racial equity and anti-oppression in the organization's and program's operations and practices; proactively identify opportunities to advance the development of an anti-racist organization; share and solicit ongoing feedback and conversations to advance this work.

Qualifications include:

- At least 5 years of experience successfully leading an IT or Engineering function within an organization;
- Experience working with modern web technologies and frameworks;
- Experience with systems design and/or coding in a general purpose programming language (ie. Java, C/C++, Python, Node.js);
- Working knowledge of SQL, data modeling and database systems;

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- Experience leading product teams and managing external vendors;
- Ability to translate technical concepts and solutions to non-technical and executive audiences;
- Ability to collaborate, build consensus, deliver, and drive technical decisions with various sized stakeholder groups;
- Strong technical leadership, project management, analytical problem solving, and troubleshooting skills;
- Experience working with municipal technology agencies such as NYC3 and DoITT a plus;
- Excellent interpersonal and customer service skills required. Ability to work cooperatively, sensitively, and tactfully, and maintain composure and professionalism with all levels of staff and the public required;

Location: Long Island City, NY

To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to jobs@nyckidsrise.org and list the name of the position, “Director of Technology” in the subject of the email. Salary based on experience.