

Silo City Tour – New York State Curriculum Alignment

The Silo City Tour immerses students in Buffalo’s industrial heritage through the story of grain elevators, the communities and workers who powered the industry, and the economic forces that shaped the city. Students also examine modern adaptive reuse, exploring how historic industrial structures are reimagined for new cultural, economic, and community purposes.

Social Studies (NYS K–12 Social Studies Framework)

- United States & New York State History: Analyze Buffalo’s rise as a global grain port and industrial center.
- Economics: Examine how grain storage, transportation, and trade influenced local and national economies.
- Geography: Understand how waterways, railroads, and location supported industrial growth.
- Civics, Labor & Community History: Explore the lives of workers, immigrant communities, and neighborhood development.
- Continuity & Change: Compare historical industrial uses with modern adaptive reuse.

Science, Technology & Engineering (NYS P–12 Science Learning Standards)

- Engineering Design: Investigate how silos were designed and built for efficiency, safety, and durability.
- Forces, Materials & Structures: Examine reinforced concrete, gravity-fed systems, and large-scale construction.
- Problem Solving: Consider challenges involved in reusing industrial structures.

English Language Arts (NYS Next Generation ELA Standards)

- Reading & Research: Interpret informational texts, diagrams, photographs, and oral histories.
- Speaking & Listening: Engage in collaborative discussions about industrialization and reuse.
- Writing: Use evidence to explain economic impact and propose new uses for historic sites.

Career, Civic & Sustainability Connections

- Explore careers in engineering, construction, architecture, historic preservation, and urban planning.
- Understand how adaptive reuse supports sustainability and community revitalization.

Key Learning Outcomes: Students will explain how Buffalo's grain silos were built, describe the experiences of the workers and communities connected to them, analyze their economic impact, and evaluate how adaptive reuse gives new life to historic industrial structures.