



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 30

28-11 Queens Plaza North, Room

512

Long Island City, NY 11101

Tel: 718-391-8380

Fax: 718-391-8500

CEC30.org

Email: CEC30@schools.nyc.gov

Resolution 200 - Resolution Calling on Mayor Mamdani and the New York State Legislature to Codify Meaningful School Governance Reforms in the 2026 Mayoral Control Renewal

Author: Laura Simpson

Co-Sponsor(s): Victoria Medelius, Whitney Toussaint, Xochitl Cohen Garcia, Alexis Kaloyanides, and Marlene Rossi

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2024, Community Education Council District 30 passed Resolution 178, "Resolution on School Governance and Mayoral Control," calling for structural reforms including reducing mayoral appointees to the Panel for Educational Policy, establishing Chancellor accountability mechanisms, and convening an independent School Governance Commission;¹ and

WHEREAS, the April 2024 mayoral control renewal made only modest changes, allowing Albany leaders to nominate candidates for PEP chair while maintaining the Mayor's 13-member majority on the 24-member panel;² and

WHEREAS, the April 2024 New York State Education Department (hereafter referred to as NYSED) report on mayoral control, a nearly 300-page study required by the Legislature, found that "the majority of public hearing participants said they do not feel heard or included in the New York City public school system's decision-making processes";³ and

WHEREAS, the NYSED report further found that "compared with similar school systems reviewed in this report, New York City Public School's governance model grants the most power to the mayor" and that "research indicates that there is no conclusive relationship between school governance structures and student achievement";³ and

WHEREAS, the NYSED report documented public recommendations to "empower student, parent, and teacher expertise" and "create more avenues for meaningful deliberation and shared decision-making";³ and

WHEREAS, then-candidate Zohran Mamdani campaigned on ending mayoral control, stating on his campaign website: "Zohran supports an end to mayoral control and envisions a system instead in which parents, students, educators and administrators work together";⁴ and



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WHEREAS, candidate Mamdani called specifically for "strengthening co-governance through the PEP, SLTs, DLTs, and CECs in particular";⁴ and

WHEREAS, candidate Mamdani reiterated during the final mayoral debate: "I remain opposed to mayoral control";⁵ and

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2025, hours before his inauguration, Mayor-elect Mamdani announced he would ask the State Legislature to extend mayoral control, stating: "Though I held concerns about mayoral control, I also know that New Yorkers need to know where the buck stops: with me";⁶ and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mamdani's stated rationale, "that voters deserve clear accountability for school outcomes," is a principle that this Council supports; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mamdani committed that his approach to mayoral control "will ensure that community involvement is not ceremonial or procedural, but tangible and actionable";⁶ and

WHEREAS, these commitments, while welcome, remain uncodified promises that could be abandoned by any future administration without structural changes to state law; and

WHEREAS, the principle of accountability is strengthened, not weakened, when commitments are codified into law rather than left to executive discretion;

WHEREAS, Community Education Councils are democratically elected bodies whose members must be parents of children attending district schools, yet CECs possess binding authority only over school zoning decisions, rendering all other CEC actions purely advisory;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Education Council District 30 calls on Mayor Mamdani to demonstrate his commitment to "tangible and actionable" community involvement by supporting the codification of the following reforms in the June 2026 mayoral control renewal legislation:

1. Restructure the Panel for Educational Policy:

- Reduce mayoral appointees to no more than ten (10) members, removing the mayoral majority; OR
- Add citywide council representation to the PEP, with member(s) elected jointly by all four citywide councils (Citywide Council on Special Education,



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Citywide Council on English Language Learners, Citywide Council on District 75, and Citywide Council on High Schools) voting together, mirroring the process by which CECs elect borough representatives;

- Require that at least half of mayoral appointees be current public school parents, including parents of students with IEPs and English Language Learners;

2. Establish Chancellor Accountability:

- Require an annual evaluation of the Chancellor with formal input from Community and Citywide Education Councils, consistent with the evaluation process already required for District Superintendents;

3. Empower Community Education Councils:

- Codify CEC authority over school zoning decisions and prohibit unilateral Chancellor override of CEC zoning determinations;
- Require the Office of District Planning to provide demographic and capacity analysis to the relevant CEC at least 30 days before any proposed zoning change;
- Grant CECs approval authority over charter school applications to open, expand grade levels, or increase enrollment within the CEC's geographic boundaries;
- Grant CECs the power to approve phase-outs, closures, and co-locations of zoned and unzoned schools.
- Require NYCPS to respond in writing within 30 days to formal CEC resolutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC30 opposes the inclusion of mayoral control renewal in the state budget and opposes any extension longer than two years, to ensure the Legislature has adequate opportunity to evaluate governance reforms before subsequent renewals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC30 calls on State Senator John Liu, Chair of the Senate's New York City Education Committee, and Assemblymember Michael Benedetto, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, to include these reforms in any mayoral control extension legislation considered in the 2026 session;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC30 transmits this resolution to Mayor Zohran Mamdani, Chancellor Kamar Samuels, Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator John Liu,



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Assemblymember Michael Benedetto, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, and all members of the Queens State Legislative delegation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC30 invites other Community and Citywide Education Councils to pass similar resolutions calling for codified governance reforms.

Adopted this 9th day of February 2026, by the Community Education Council of District 30.

Citations

¹ CEC District 30, Resolution 178: Resolution on School Governance and Mayoral Control

(January 8, 2024). Available at: <https://cec30.org/resolutions.html>

² Chalkbeat New York, "Albany extends mayoral control for 2 years, tweaking NYC's education panel" (April 20, 2024). <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2024/04/20/ny-lawmakers-governor-hochul-extend-mayoral-control-in-budget-deal/>

³ New York State Education Department, "State Education Department Releases Report on Mayoral Control of New York City Schools" (April 9, 2024).

<https://www.nysed.gov/news/2024/state-education-department-releases-report-mayoral-control-new-york-city-schools>

⁴ Chalkbeat New York, "Zohran Mamdani wants to end mayoral control of NYC public schools" (July 1, 2025).

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2025/07/01/zohran-mamdani-give-up-mayoral-control-nyc-public-schools-mayor-race/>

⁵ Chalkbeat New York, "Mamdani wins mayoral election: What it means for NYC schools" (November 4, 2025). <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2025/11/04/nyc-mayor-election-mamdani-cuomo-battle-overschools-mayoral-control/>

⁶ Gothamist, "Mamdani reverses course on mayoral control of NYC schools, pledges more community input" (December 31, 2025).

<https://gothamist.com/news/mamdani-reverses-course-on-mayoral-control-of-nyc-schools-pledges-more-community-input>