



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 30

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Resolution 178

Resolution on School Governance and Mayoral Control

WHEREAS, in 2001, then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg persuaded the state legislature to end the NYC school system's decentralization, terminate the role of the community school boards, and eliminate the major powers of the school superintendents formerly appointed by those elected boards. Instead, the legislature changed the board's composition by giving the mayor seven appointees to the borough presidents' five, and transformed the city school system into the Department of Education, a citywide division under the mayor's authorityⁱ; while then-Mayor Bloomberg renamed the board the Panel for Education Policy (PEP) and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the state legislature added a parent representative to the PEP, to be selected by a vote of the members of the school system's Community Education Councilsⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the state legislature decided to extend Mayoral Control for two years and expanded the voting membership of the PEP to includeⁱⁱⁱ:

- One member appointed by each borough president of the City of New York,
- Five members, one from each borough of the City of New York, to be elected by community district education council presidents, and
- Thirteen members appointed by the mayor of the City of New York all of which must live in the City of New York, four of which shall be parents of a child attending a public school within the city district, provided that at least one appointee shall be the parent of a child with an individualized education program, and at least one appointee shall be the parent of a child who is in a bilingual English as a second language program.

WHEREAS, despite the expansion of the voting membership of the PEP to include the membership as described above, mayoral appointees represent 13 of the 23 members, which represents 57% of the body; and

WHEREAS, the current composition of PEP does not include elected parent representation from the citywide councils: Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE), Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL), Citywide Council for District 75 (CCD75), and the Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS).

WHEREAS, the current composition of PEP allows for the Mayor to implement changes that do not reflect the wishes of students, parents, or school-based staff, frequently in spite of sizeable public demonstrations as evidenced by:

- The closure of schools;^{iv}
 - The normalization of co-located schools and push-in of charter schools^v;
 - The increasingly difficult burden on parents to advocate for students with IEPs to ensure they receive legally mandated and timely services^{vi};
 - The failed attempts to increase diversity in the city's Specialized High Schools;^{vii}
 - The decades-long creation of chaos in school bus transportation;^{viii}
 - The inadequate and confusing response to the COVID pandemic;^{ix}
 - The failure to support parent participation in the system;^x
 - The drastic shifts in school curriculums and programs for reading^{xi}, for mathematics^{xii},
 - The changes in admissions for Gifted & Talented programs^{xiii};
- and most recently,

- The “rubber stamping” of the mayor’s agenda by the mayoral appointees at the December 2023 PEP Meeting with the passing of Chancellor’s Regulation A-412 despite the public outcry against the regulation in its proposed form from all public speakers^{xiv}; and

WHEREAS, at the December 18, 2023, Queens Hearing on Mayoral Control hosted by the New York State Education Department, a strong majority of the public speakers spoke against Mayoral Control in its current form^{xv}; and

WHEREAS, at the December 18, 2023, Queens Hearing on Mayoral Control hosted by the New York State Education Department, District 30 parents testified about their displeasure with Mayoral Control and its effect on their school’s curriculum, including the Pre-K level; lack of involvement of School Leadership Teams, PTAs, and CEC in decisions which affect their schools and districts; and the silencing of parent speakers at recent PEP meetings by mayoral appointees^{xvi}; and

WHEREAS, at the December 18, 2023, Queens Hearing on Mayoral Control hosted by the New York State Education Department, District 30 teachers testified about their displeasure with Mayoral Control and its effect on student success and professional development given the discontinuation of various curricula during administration changes, the budget cuts faced by schools resulting in the loss of many supports like social workers and guidance counselors, the educational decisions that are made without input from experienced educators with field experience, and the lack of resources for the most vulnerable populations^{xvii};

WHEREAS, the current State Education Law provides a measure of accountability for each of the 32 Community School District Superintendents by requiring a community-based process for the annual evaluation of the District Superintendent, yet no similar evaluation process exists for the Chancellor^{xviii}; and

WHEREAS, other cities in New York State have democratically elected school boards, the current form of New York City’s Mayoral Control keeps school community rights-holders disempowered;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Education Council 30 (CEC 30) urges the NY State Legislature to consider the following amendments to state education law to empower parents, students, and staff at all levels of the system by:

- Restructuring the PEP to allow for increased accountability and responsiveness to parents, students, and school staff by:
 - Reducing the number of Mayoral Appointees on the PEP by either:
 - Removing three mayoral appointee positions to reduce the number of appointees to ten members; or
 - Replacing three mayoral appointees in with members elected by the citywide councils (Citywide Council for District 75, Citywide Council on Special Education, Citywide Council on English Language Learners, Citywide Council on High Schools); and also
 - Requiring that at least half of the mayoral appointees on the PEP be parents of public school students and include parents of students in a D75 school, an ELL, and a student with an IEP.
- Requiring a process for the annual evaluation of the Chancellor led by the restructured PEP (as recommended above), including input from the Community and Citywide Education Councils, Community School District Offices, High School District Offices, and District 75 School District Offices.
- Provide public education resources to educate and inform the public about New York City school governance.
- Convene and fund an independent and community-led, School Governance Commission that includes students, parents/caregivers, educators, and other education stakeholders to articulate a transition plan for a more balanced governance structure for NYCPS by 2026.

VOTED AND APPROVED: JANUARY 8, 2024

ⁱ <https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/mayoral-control-and-panel-educational-policy-pep>

ⁱⁱ Ibid

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- ⁱⁱⁱ https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=S09459&term=2021&Summary=Y&Text=Y#
- ^{iv} <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/27/nyregion/27close.html>
- ^v <https://www.wnyc.org/story/new-schools-and-co-locations-last-under-bloomberg-under-debate/>
- ^{vi} <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/nyc-comptroller-report-finds-doe-fails-to-deliver-mandated-special-education-services-to-thousands-of-children-even-as-claims-spending-surged-tenfold/>
- ^{vii} https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2018/6/4/21105095/a-chalkbeat-cheat-sheet-the-specialized-high-school-admissions-test-overhaul/?_ga=2.244826949.1184766982.1608059255-1200205559.1603213591
- ^{viii} <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2023/3/15/23630378/nyc-schools-students-with-disabilities-bus-delays-chronic-absenteeism/>
- ^{ix} <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/12/nyregion/schools-cuomo-de-blasio-nyc-coronavirus.html?smid=url-share>
- ^x <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2023/8/18/23837111/doe-family-and-community-empowerment-turmoil-affects-parents/>
- ^{xi} <https://manhattan.institute/article/nyc-schools-aiming-for-illiteracy>
- ^{xii} <https://www.chalkbeat.org/republish/newyork/2022/9/16/23355705/mosaic-curriculum-universal-shelved-nyc-school/>
- ^{xiii} <https://www.chalkbeat.org/republish/newyork/2022/4/6/23013451/nyc-gifted-and-talented-programs-admissions-changes/>
- ^{xiv} <https://learndoe.org/pep/archive-pep-dec20-2023/>
- ^{xv} https://www.nysed.gov/new-york-city-mayoral-control-hearings?link_id=2&can_id=4e20f3d8cf0cd32c1284c89f5660ea3c&source=email-bronx-mayoral-control-hearing-tuesday-125-2&email_referrer=email_2143538&email_subject=queens-mayoral-control-hearing-monday-1218#queens
- ^{xvi} Ibid
- ^{xvii} Ibid
- ^{xviii} <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/EDN/2590-D>