

Inspiration

“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.”

—Albert Einstein

Chancellor’s Message

Dear Parent Leader,

As we enter mid-year and welcome spring, the season of blossoming, growth and renewal, I’m happy to report on the outstanding success of our initiatives. I am relying on you as Parent Leaders to share this information with parents and encourage their active involvement in our programs.

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Dates to Remember

- ▶ **March 20—April 21:**
Candidate Forums for Community Education Council Elections
- ▶ **March 25:** Arabic Conference—
P.S./I.S. 30 Brooklyn
- ▶ **April 6:** CEC 17 Town Hall—M.S. 2,
Brooklyn
- ▶ **April 23—May 9:** Voting for Community
Education Council Elections
- ▶ **April 26:** CEC 18 Town Hall—P.S. 66,
Brooklyn
- ▶ **May 8:** CEC 30 Town Hall—P.S. 171,
Queens
- ▶ **May 15:** Community Education Council
Election Results
- ▶ **May 16:** CEC 32 Town Hall—I.S. 384,
Brooklyn

Chancellor's Message

At the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, we implemented **NYC Pre-K Thrive**, which encompasses several initiatives aimed at increasing opportunities for pre-K children to realize their potential by building a foundation of social-emotional skills during a critical stage of development. **Pre-K for All** enrollment is high across every community, with strong participation among low-income families. Results are clear – 92% of families say their program is good or excellent.

Our **Universal Literacy** initiative is taking off, with over 100 reading coaches placed in elementary schools to ensure that by the end of second grade all students will be reading on grade level. We are currently working with 107 elementary schools in four pilot districts: Districts 17 and 32 in Brooklyn, and 9 and 10 in the Bronx.

The initiative is slated to expand to more districts in the coming school years. The main driver of our work is the Universal Literacy Reading Coach. Our coaches support every school by helping to build teacher capacity in kindergarten, first, and second grades. Their expertise comes via their experience as classroom teachers themselves as well as their participation in a robust professional development learning program.

Family outreach is a key part of the initiative. Coaches distribute periodic newsletters to support families in continuing the literacy learning of our students at home. Coaches also facilitate workshops where family members are invited to school to learn more about their work. I believe that every family member we reach can play an integral role in each child's literacy learning and overall education.

The **Algebra for All** initiative is improving math instruction in over 200 elementary, middle, and high schools. Over 400 teachers have received training to ensure that all eighth-graders have access to algebra.

Our **College Access for All** initiative is bringing 20,000 seventh-graders to college campuses this year and making college an achievable expectation for our

students. One hundred high schools are receiving new training and funding to build a schoolwide college and career culture. In addition to school-based programs, we will continue to expand on citywide supports for building college awareness and readiness.

Our **Single Shepherds** act not only as academic supports, helping students navigate high school graduation and post-secondary planning, they also serve as key social and emotional supports and guides. Shepherds establish relationships with a cohort of approximately 100 students, a very low student to counselor ratio, in order to give more personalized attention to students and their families. Shepherds conduct home visits to foster family engagement, link families with resources, and enhance the level of personalized support.

Through the **High School Campus Co-Location** initiative, campuses across the City are developing a single Parent Welcome Center which offers services to parents including workshops, presentations, and professional development opportunities. Parent Coordinators work together to support all parents on the campus, and provide services collaboratively.

Finally, **Summer in the City (SITC)**, has been a major success, and now is the perfect time to talk it up to the parents in your school. This year, a variety of summer enrichment programs will offer access to new curriculum as well college-level and STEM-oriented programming. Students can also take part in sports activities and educational visits to museums, zoos, parks, and libraries. Enrichment programs are open to students who are not recommended to attend summer school.

In addition, students who participate in SITC will have the opportunity to visit the City's rich cultural institutions and museums. The DOE has partnered with institutions including the Whitney Museum, the Brooklyn Historical Society, and the Children's Museum of Manhattan. Students will have a chance to explore educational concepts in these and other exciting non-traditional settings.

Chancellor's Message (continued)

Your energy and commitment in promoting these innovative programs with parents is greatly appreciated. Together we can make a difference in the lives of all our public school students and families. Keep up the great work!

Warmly,

Carmen

Chancellor's Book Recommendations

Here are a few books that have given me inspiration and messages of hope over the last few years. They are available in most of our schools and make great conversation starters. Enjoy.



I'm Not Too Busy
Written and illustrated
by Jodi Hills
Tristan Publishing, 2007



This Is Just to Say: Poems of Apology and Forgiveness
By Joyce Sidman
Illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski
Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007



What Do You Do with a Problem?
By Kobi Yamada,
Illustrated by Mae Besom
Compendium, Inc., 2016

Did You Know?

All New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status, can continue to access City services. Call 311 or visit nyc.gov/immigrants for more information from the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. Additionally, resources on support and safety issues are available on the DOE website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/SupportingAllStudents.htm>.



Mandatory PA/PTA officers represent their school in the upcoming Citywide and Community Education Council Elections this spring. Voting takes place online at NYCParentLeaders.org between Sunday, April 23 and Tuesday, May 9. Log-in credentials are sent directly to the mandatory officers: president, recording secretary, and treasurer. Co-officers must decide who shall be the selector for their school community.

PA/PTAs, as per Chancellor's Regulation A-660, are required to hold an annual election between April 1 and the last day of school, to elect a president, recording secretary, treasurer, and/or co-officers. Also, as per this Regulation, all records of the PA/PTA must be transferred to the new executive board officers, which includes access to bank accounts and websites.

On My Mind

COMMUNITY AND CITYWIDE EDUCATION COUNCILS — GET OUT THE VOTE!

This is an exciting time of year. March came in like a lion, with parents of all backgrounds applying for seats on Community and Citywide Education Councils (CEC). Now I'm counting on you to make sure the month doesn't go out like a lamb. This is the time to keep the campaign momentum going and get out the vote. As you know, the 32 CECs are responsible for approving school zoning lines, holding hearings on the capital plan, and providing input on instructional and policy issues. The four Citywide Councils advise on policies affecting the students they represent.

In an effort to bring as many parents from diverse backgrounds into the fold, our marketing campaign for the CEC elections this year is more far-reaching than ever before. Along with robocalls and texts, parents will see posters on bus shelters, subway cars and platforms, and a video on Taxi TV, where I speak directly to riders about the election campaign.

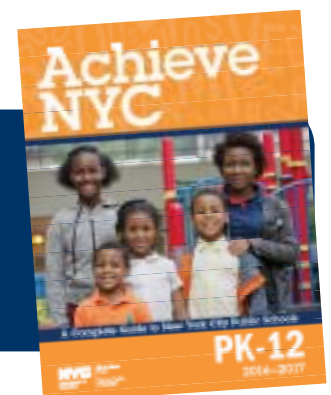
Between March 20 and April 21, Presidents' Councils in each school district will host forums for candidates to engage parents and Parent Leaders. The voters in these elections are officers of every Parent Association/Parent Teacher Association (PA/PTA). Selector voting begins April 23 and runs through May 9 at NYCParentLeaders.org.



PA/PTA officers, your work is absolutely essential to this process: encourage parents in your school to vote, and make sure your school exercises its three votes! Parents are invaluable partners in their children's education and the CEC elections bring an important opportunity for parents to become leaders and advocates for their school communities. Now more than ever, the voices of public school parents matter.

That means **all voices**. We are expanding the ways that we engage non-English speaking parents by increasing the translation and interpretation services for CECs, as well as access to over-the-phone interpreters for schools at any time. Together we have really made it possible for the Councils to operate as high-functioning teams. A number of CECs have begun to form sub-committees on parent engagement, and I couldn't be more pleased. I've seen the work that the District 3 CEC has been doing on diversity, and their work is paying off. Instead of feeling powerless about an issue, they've taken the lead. Let's all follow *their* example.

Achieve NYC: *A Complete Guide to New York City Public Schools.* The guide is available in nine languages — pick one up at your school and spread the word to families in your community.



Parent Leader Spotlight

Nancy Northrop:

Nancy Northrop is the co-chair of the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council (CPAC), which brings together all Presidents' Council presidents, who in turn represent the City's Parent Association/Parent Teacher Associations (PA/PTA). This is Nancy's third year as co-chair. She also serves as the president of both the Queens High School Presidents' Council and her daughter's high school PTA.

Her work on CPAC focuses on its mission to support parents and students by advising the Chancellor on a range of issues.

Most recently, CPAC helped revise Chancellor's Regulation A-660, with Phase One approved at the January Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) meeting. The effort took a year and a half, with many CPAC members devoting countless hours to reviewing and revising the regulation. CPAC



members polled their own Presidents' Councils and brought specific experiences within their districts to the table. Nancy played an integral part in this effort, and she hopes the revised regulation is clearer, and better equips PAs/PTAs to support students and schools.

"I continue to be amazed by the dedication and commitment of the parents I serve alongside," Nancy said. She believes parents' voices need to be heard and carefully considered. She has elevated the conversation beyond PA/PTA fundraising to a place where parents share ideas, concerns, and perspectives that teachers, schools, or DOE staff may not have considered. We congratulate Nancy on her years of dedication and hard work, and look forward to continuing to partner with her.

Each issue will spotlight Parent Leaders and their great work in the community. If you would like to nominate a Parent Leader to be featured here, please send the nomination to CCECinfo@schools.nyc.gov.

Resources and Points of Contact

New York Public Library



Across 92 locations in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, the New York Public Library provides free educational resources and programs for learners of all ages. Get more information about educational programs for children, teens, and adults at [The New York Public Library](https://www.nypl.org/).

Brooklyn Public Library

Brooklyn Public Library is more than just a place for books – it's a place to come to learn. The library hosts hundreds of classes, workshops, and trainings at its sixty locations every year. A library card ensures access to hundreds of online learning tools which normally charge a fee to access and use. Brooklyn Public Library offers parents and families a wide array of programs and services, both in their libraries and on the web. A full list of [Brooklyn Public Library](#) parent resources is available.



Queens Public Library

Queens Library's mission is provide quality services, resources, and lifelong learning opportunities to the most diverse community in the world. In addition to offering books, other materials, and access to technology, they provide hundreds of free programs for children, teens, and adults at 65 locations throughout Queens. Get more information on classes and events at the [Queens Public Library](#).



NYC School Survey

The 2017 NYC School Survey is an important opportunity for parents and guardians to provide critical feedback about the learning environment at their child's school or program. Please encourage parents and guardians at your school or program to complete the survey by **Friday, March 31**. Families can complete the survey by paper or online using the access code on the bottom right corner of their paper survey. If a parent or guardian cannot find their paper survey, they can call the Survey Hotline at (800) 690- 8603 or email surveys@schools.nyc.gov. [Postcards](#) and [flyers](#) containing instructions for completing the parent/guardian survey are available.



Join the online conversation



or



or

schools.nyc.gov