

CHANCELLOR CATHIE BLACK

Brooklyn Technical High School

2/3/11, Panel for Educational Policy Meeting

- Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good evening to members of the Panel, elected representatives, and all of the parents, teachers and students assembled here tonight.
- Tonight, we are here to discuss and vote on the proposed phase out of 12 schools.
- As Chancellor, my first responsibility is to ensure that our schools provide a high-quality education to students so that they can graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college and the work world.
- We must hold all schools to a standard of excellence because *every* child in this city deserves the best possible education.
- Through months of investigation, we've undertaken a rigorous effort to identify a group of schools that year after year are simply not serving their students well.

- These schools have demonstrated persistently poor performance—in some cases for a decade or longer. This is true despite an array of interventions the Department of Education implemented in hopes of reversing those patterns.
- We owe it to our families to give them the best possible options, and in the case of the 12 schools proposed for phase out tonight, that means replacing those schools with new ones.
- Under this Administration, we've opened over 450 new district and charters schools to replace failing schools.
- Independent research overwhelmingly shows that these new schools perform better, and students at these schools are more likely to be on track to graduation compared to students in other high schools.

- And the research shows that new small schools are particularly successful with students traditionally considered the most disadvantaged, including minorities, special education students, English Language Learners, and students entering high school with low proficiency levels.
- Phasing out schools is enormously difficult, and we do not take these decisions lightly. We wish every one of our schools could thrive. But when it's clear that the best thing we can do for families is bring new and better options to this building, then we must act.
- I want to thank each and every one of you for coming out tonight. You're displaying an admirable commitment to public education and I look forward to hearing your feedback.