



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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Resolution on New York City School Governance

The Community and Citywide Education Councils (CCECs) are composed of parents who have been elected or appointed to serve as stakeholders of NYC School Community Districts, and specific cohorts of students, representing NYC public school students and their families.

Approved on December 14, 2021, the following resolution offers CEC 15's position regarding changes to the NYS Education Law related to school governance of New York City schools.

WHEREAS, for the reasons set forth below, CEC15 hereby resolves to support amendments to the New York State Law 2590, and the formation of a task force to conduct a comprehensive study on school governance in New York city, and submit recommendations on a transition plan for New York City school governance;

WHEREAS, Mayoral Control has removed all power from the CCECs, the public schools parents, and the school communities that are served by the Department of Education;

WHEREAS, within the Education Law it states that *The community councils shall have no executive or administrative powers or functions*;

WHEREAS, the Panel for Education Policy, which does have the power to enact policy, continues to remain an almost entirely appointed council that some in the legislature have referred to as the Mayor's rubber stamp;

WHEREAS, with the exception of one Parent Member, all other members of the PEP are appointed by the Mayor and Borough Presidents, in conjunction with the City Council, and are not actually elected by the people that they represent;

WHEREAS, NYC schools require a new form of school governance that not only values parent voice but includes parents in a far more collaborative way than the present method;

WHEREAS, CCECs are staunch advocates for students and their parents, functioning in many ways like a typical school board, in that they frequently write resolutions, speak to the Superintendent, Chancellor and various Department of Education officials, learn about policy, curriculum, budgets and more, and give an inordinate amount of volunteer hours to support their communities;

WHEREAS, CCECs hold regular monthly public meetings, consistently communicating with the public to keep community members informed of any challenges, ideas, and progress that the Council may have to share;

WHEREAS, CCECs provide their District and the Department of Education with the on-the-ground knowledge of their community's resources and needs, as well as assure that their councils are accessible to everyone in the community through public meetings, phone, email and teleconferences;

WHEREAS, a task force is necessary to explore and create a new kind of structure with more accountability and shared responsibility, but not total autonomy;

WHEREAS, a new, more democratic form of School Governance, will allow for greater parent voice, transparency and accountability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Legislature add one additional CCEC parent representative on the Panel for Education Policy which will provide parents with greater opportunities to participate effectively in decision making, particularly those representing the needs of ELL students, Special Education students, including District 75, and High School students;

BE IT RESOLVED that all CCEC members be allowed to vote for the parent representative(s) on the Panel for Education Policy;

BE IT RESOLVED that one non-voting appointee from the NYC comptroller's office be added to the Panel for Education Policy to encourage fiscal oversight and accountability;

BE IT RESOLVED that District Community Education Council compositions be reconfigured to include a High School representative and a District 75 representative;

BE IT RESOLVED that CEC Presidents, or their representative, are a member of the District Leadership Team;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NYS Education Law be amended to include the District 75 Community Education Council;

BE IT RESOLVED that the amendment language that provides for parents of current students, who are or have been at any time an English language learner, shall be eligible to apply to serve on the District Community Education Councils, also apply to the Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL).

BE IT RESOLVED that the CCEC elections be turned over to the Board of Elections. The Department of Education is here to educate children, not to run elections;

BE IT RESOLVED that in the next cycle of CCEC elections, appeal campaigning, endorsements, cross-endorsements and slates may be allowed, which will increase equity and diversity in elected councils;

BE IT RESOLVED that, in order to increase equity and diversity, outreach will be conducted in underrepresented communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Data Access point person be assigned at the Department of Education, tasked with the responsibility of fulfilling data requests made by CCECs, able to articulate what data the district has, make clear what data is available and accept input on what data should be collected and disseminated over time;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NYS Legislature create a task force to conduct a comprehensive study on school governance in New York city, and submit recommendations on a transition plan for school governance in New York City that will increase parent voice, increase shared responsibility in school governance, add checks and balances for greater oversight and accountability, and increase structure and sustainability in Citywide and Community Education Councils.

This Resolution was approved at a CEC15 Calendar Meeting held on December 14, 2021 by a vote of members present including: Camille Casaretti, Antonia Ferraro, Tia Schellstede, Nana-Poku Agyekum, Ivan Banda, Nancy Randall, Vincent Lu and Alfred De Ingeniis.