

Citywide Council on Special Education

Resolution #002 to Oppose Mayoral Control of the New York City Department of Education

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) is the largest system of public schools in the United States, serving more than 1 million students in over 1,800 schools¹; and

WHEREAS, mayoral control of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) was granted to Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2002 and has been renewed several times since then, most recently in 2022 for a two-year extension²; and

WHEREAS, mayoral control of the NYCDOE gives the mayor the power to appoint the schools chancellor and a majority of the members of the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), which governs the city's education system; and

WHEREAS, mayoral control of the DOE has centralized decision-making power in the hands of the mayor, leading to a lack of checks and balances that would otherwise be provided by a democratically elected school board; and

WHEREAS, this concentration of power has led to concerns over transparency and accountability, with major decisions often made without sufficient input from families, teachers, administrators and community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the absence of a broad-based and diverse governing body has resulted in policies that may not reflect the needs and priorities of the various communities that the DOE serves; and

WHEREAS, mayoral control of the NYCDOE has been criticized for being undemocratic, unaccountable, and disconnected from the needs and voices of students, parents, teachers, and communities; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers are stakeholders who are disenfranchised under Mayoral Control; and

WHEREAS, mayoral control of the NYCDOE is set to expire in 2024 and the state Legislature will have to decide whether to renew it, modify it, or replace it with a different governance structure;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the undersigned, call on the state Legislature to end mayoral control of the NYCDOE and restore democratic and local control of the city's public schools; and

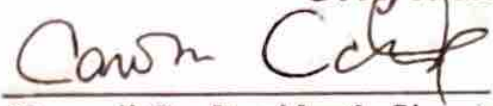
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the undersigned, demand that the state Legislature establish a new governance structure for the NYCDOE that ensures the participation and representation of all stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, school administrators, and community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the undersigned, urge the state Legislature to create a new governance structure for the NYCDOE that promotes transparency, accountability, collaboration, and innovation in the city's education system.

¹ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/reports/doe-data-at-a-glance>

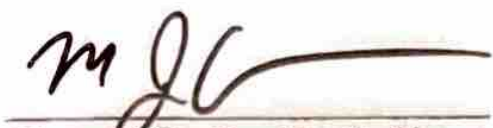
² <https://www.cityandstateny.com/politics/2022/04/understanding-mayoral-control/366018/>

Citywide Council on Special Education



(Council Co- President's Signature)

11-30-23
(Date)



(Council Co- President's Signature)

11-30-23
(Date)



(Witness Signature)

11-30-23
(Date)