

THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Rafael T. Alvarez, Community Superintendent

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

131 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-935-4317



**Department of
Education**

Chancellor David C. Banks

Dear District 15 Community,

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the Community School District 15 Superintendent. As a proud product of Brooklyn public schools and borough resident I am excited to be home! I began my career in Sunset Park as an elementary school teacher and I am grateful to return to the district that nurtured and inspired my journey as an educator and leader.

My career with the Department of Education has spanned over 20 years. For the past four years I have served as the Superintendent of District 7 and prior to that I was the Deputy Superintendent for District 10 where I supported 58 schools. As a former Assistant Principal and Principal, I understand the vital role that school building leaders play in creating joyful and equitable learning communities and look forward to supporting each leader.

District 15 has always been at the forefront of exceptional instructional experiences and is a current vanguard in promoting integration, diversity, equity and inclusion. My goal is to build upon these proud traditions through collaboration and shared decision making. Over the course of the next several weeks, I will embark on a listening and learning tour to gain a deeper understanding of the district's unique assets and challenges. I look forward to meeting with leaders, staff, students, families, elected officials, and community members. These meetings will serve as a springboard for our collaborative strategic planning.

As we begin to learn about each other, I leave you with my pledge as Superintendent to:

- Collaborate with all stakeholders to create a culturally responsive learning environment in which children have the opportunity to develop to their full potential in a safe, affirming, warm, and welcoming atmosphere. I believe that education must be a child-centered learning environment. Through this child-centered approach to education, students will be challenged yet experience success, become excited about learning, and be motivated to remain learners throughout their lives.
- Create an environment that fosters life-long learning. This attitude in students is promoted by creating an environment that encourages students' natural curiosity so they may develop an excitement for learning. Students need the opportunity to experience hands-on, real-life learning experiences that will challenge, motivate, and light a passion for learning.
- Support teachers and leaders in cultivating anti-racists practices, policies, systems and structures, so that all of our students experience exceptional levels of success and are fully prepared to be leaders in our society.
- Celebrate successes using an asset-based approach that builds efficacy. As a district, we will promote and sustain best practices in our community. We will leverage the strengths which help us develop and thus build leadership confidence and success.

- Authentically engage and foster family leadership in the educational process through equitable shared decision making and transparency.
- Sustain, respect and grow partnerships with diverse community stakeholders so that we accelerate momentum towards our common goal of elevating and inspiring our students, families and community.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at RAlvare4@schools.nyc.gov. Again, I look forward to our collaborative journey together.

Respectfully,

Rafael Alvarez
Superintendent