



### **CEC15 speaks to the Panel for Education Policy on Grading Policy Amendments**

May 7, 2020

Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak. My name is Camille Casaretti and I am the President of CEC15. I hope everyone is feeling well and staying safe.

This pandemic has caused so much dismay for so many of our community members, and I want to send my condolences to those who have lost loved ones.

My comments tonight are about the amendments to the grading policy.

CEC15 believes that equity, diversity, integration and inclusion should be at the forefront of planning throughout the city. We take this very seriously. With the support of our Superintendent Anita Skop, recent changes to our middle school admissions policy and removal of screens, have proven to be successful in creating opportunities for students throughout our district.

The DOE is currently working with community members on a PAR process to seek feedback on a new zoning proposal for seven of our elementary schools that will create equity and access opportunities for our youngest students.

Covid-19 has turned our homes into classrooms overnight, causing anxiety for many, but this will no doubt lead to productive outcomes in areas that we may not have ever considered or thought would be possible. And amid the crisis, we see major successes coming out of our District 15 schools. I am so proud of our school community members and would like to extend my sincere thanks to our District 15 teachers, Principals and staff members for doing an exceptional job under very difficult circumstances. Teacher Appreciation has a new meaning. None of this could be possible without our incredible educators, and the staff and leaders at the DOE.

Regarding the grading policy amendments, I want to commend the DOE for reaching out to CECs for feedback and for really hearing us. This modification in the last quarter of grading takes into consideration the extent of trauma that so many of our students are facing. It is very much appreciated that conversations and considerations around the whole child, and social emotional learning, were prioritized in this decision.

Thank you so much, Chancellor Carranza, for keeping Equity and Excellence as a guiding light even in the face of crisis.