



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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March 11, 2025
Business Meeting

Hello all. I have some updates to share.

I just got word that our D75 Member Danley Vidal **resigned** effective today. I will notify the District 75 Presidents' Council. They are the body tasked with appointing a new member. CEC15 has two vacant seats, one for the parent of an English Language Learner and now one for the parent of a District 75 student.

Share in Chat:

Applications in nine languages and all information about eligibility to CECs can be found [here](#). Please also visit CECd15.org to learn more about our organization.

Last week the **Attorney General Tish James** along with the attorneys general of Illinois and Massachusetts released a response to the U.S. Department of Education Dear Colleague Letter and executive orders targeting diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.

Share in Chat: Tish James' Response to the Dear Colleague Letter

<https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/publications/joint-guidance-re-school-programs-guidance-2025.pdf>

We have a lot of **district wide events** in the coming days and weeks.

Wed. Mar. 12, PBL Showcase, MS 51 350 5th Ave. 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Wed. Mar. 12, 6pm - 9pm - 2025 District 15 CEC Online Candidate Forum - [Zoom](#)

Mon. Mar. 17, 6pm - 9pm - 2025 District 15 CEC Online Candidate Forum - [Zoom](#)

Fri. Mar. 21, 12 - 1:30 pm UnLocal Know Your Rights Webinar, [Zoom](#)

Tues. Mar. 25, Calendar Meeting 6:30 pm PS/MS 676 - 27 Huntington St.

Fri. Apr. 4 D15 Musical - The Lion King - 7:00 pm Prospect Heights High School, 883 Classon Ave.

Sat. Apr. 5 D15 Musical - The Lion King - 2:00 pm Prospect Heights High School, 883 Classon Ave.

Tues. Apr. 8, 6:30 pm Business Meeting - 131 Livingston St. Rm 301

There is also a **Rally to Save Education Programs (3/13 at 9am City Hall)**

Please join the [Coalition for Equitable Education Funding](#) in advocating to save important education programs!

1. Rally to Save Education Programs (3/13 at 9am): Join the Coalition for Equitable Education Funding for a rally to save important education programs at risk of being cut in the city budget. The rally will take place right before the start of the City Council education budget hearing. A flyer is attached.

Thursday, March 13th, 9:00-10:00 am

Steps of City Hall

Register at <https://forms.office.com/r/Hm800LQtL6>

Programs at risk of significant funding cuts as soon as July include 3-K, preschool special education classes, community schools, restorative justice, arts programs, mental health services, immigrant family outreach, and more.

2. Testify to Save Education Programs (3/13 at 2:30pm or later): The City Council education budget hearing is taking place on March 13th. You can testify (read a statement of up to two minutes) in person at City Hall or via Zoom. While the hearing starts at 10am with the NYC Department of Education's testimony, public testimony is scheduled to begin at 2:30pm and will likely last into the evening. It would be great to have parents, students, educators, and others talk about the impact of losing one or more of the education programs on the chopping block. We have posted [guidance online](#) with step-by-step instructions for signing up to testify and testifying. You can register to testify at <https://council.nyc.gov/testify/>. If you would like sample testimony or additional support, please reply to this email.
3. Email the Mayor: [Email Mayor Adams](#) and urge him to extend funding for important education programs in the City's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget: <https://bit.ly/NYCEdBudget26>

As state budget discussions continue, you can also email Governor Hochul and state legislators and ask them not to shortchange NYC schools: <https://bit.ly/DemandFairFunding>

The **Panel for Education Policy has a Public Comment Form**. Please submit your comments here.

Share: PEP Public Comment Form

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezM7S0zfCMXb_BiXecJSnxsfl1E27CbCTwT0TflzuZbe3cAQ/viewform

Participatory Budgeting Vote Week is coming up soon, from March 29th until April 6th.

This year, Council Member Shahana Hanif has allocated 1.5 million dollars to spend on potential community based projects. Everyone 11 or older who lives, works, or goes to school in District 39 (regardless of citizenship status) is eligible to vote on projects ranging from overdue school repairs, public art programming, to addressing financial literacy in our district.

There are two opportunities to get involved during vote week to ensure your communities' voices are heard:

1. **Host pop-up voting site** outside your school during vote week! This could be either before school one morning during drop-off, and/or during a school event, should you have any school wide/community events scheduled that week. Setting up a vote site is easy: CM Hanif's office will provide all the training and materials! If this is something your school is interested in please sign up to join the council member's zoom training for setting up a vote site on March 17th from 5:30 - 6:30. (see sign up below)
2. **Host voting in class as a civics lesson** for students! If you are a middle school or high school teacher, Participatory Budgeting is a great way to give students a hands on civics lesson! CM Hanif encourages teachers to bring voting into the classroom. CM Hanif's office provides slides related to PB and the projects this cycle for your students. If you are interested in bringing PB to your classroom, you can join District 39's teacher training zoom session March 17th at 4pm. (see sign up below)

Share in Chat:

Interested in either training? Please fill out this quick form, to get the zoom link for the training that fits your school the best! (Zoom info will be sent after you submit the form.)

Participatory Budgeting gives everyday people a real say in how real money is spent. It is one way we can envision a just budget, and **we hope to increase voter** turnout this year with your help. Schools can join other schools to promote participatory budgeting and community improvement for all who live, work, and go to school in District 39.

Also, **Garden Train**, in collaboration with Old Stone House, has a proposal on this ballot for PS 230 and 130. This is the draft ballot language:

PS 130, PS 179, PS 230

Provide class sessions to 1st, 2nd, 3rd graders (soil, butterflies, seeds, plants through seasons, plant use in textiles, medicine, food) and hands-on workshops for school garden volunteers and families in order to support the development of school gardens in Kensington. This is a collaborative project of Garden Train and Old Stone House. All principals are supportive of the project.

Please contact Betty Feibusch, of CB2, if there are any questions.

And finally, welcome to **new baby** Giovanni Noel Lanzillotto! Congratulations to Deputy Superintendent Lanzillotto and spouse.