



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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April 8, 2025
Business Meeting

President's Report - Antonia Ferraro Martinelli

Welcome to CEC15's April Business meeting. I have some brief updates and then, I will share the response we received from the School Construction Authority regarding our resolution.

Updates

Chancellor Ramos released her 5 Borough Listening Tour Report

In this report, the Chancellor announced the launch of two new initiatives.

1. Family Connectors initiative—a new citywide, inter-agency effort to better connect families to vital resources and remove barriers to learning. NYCPS aims to train over 1,600 community volunteers who will serve as trusted messengers.
2. Anti-bullying and anti-vaping campaign - These campaigns will heighten public awareness, foster environments where every student is valued and treated with dignity and respect, and empower students with real solutions.

Add to chat:

https://pwsblobprd.schools.nyc/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/listeningtourreport-2025-english.pdf?sfvrsn=e221d704_8

Middle school offers will be released tomorrow, Wednesday, April 9 after school hours. NYCPS will host a virtual information session about middle school offers, waitlists, and next steps.

April 10, 5pm to 6pm | Event held in English and American Sign Language (ASL).
Interpretation provided in: Bangla, Korean, Spanish

April 22, 5pm to 6pm | Event held in English and ASL. Interpretation provided in: Chinese (Mandarin), Haitian Creole, Urdu

April 23, 1pm to 2pm | Event held in English and ASL. Interpretation provided in: Arabic, French, Russian

Add to chat:

How to join:

- At the start time, click <https://bit.ly/2025SpringMSEvents> and enter passcode #123456 to join.
- Interpretation Services: Find phone numbers for the languages provided at schools.nyc.gov/MS under the section titled “Attend Admissions Events

CEC Elections are Underway

While the application period has ended, interested applicants are encouraged to also [apply](#) to the Borough President for an appointment.

Videos of the Candidate forums that took place in March can be viewed [here](#). District 15 held two candidate forums so be sure to watch both.

The voting period runs from **April 25 to May 13**. You must have a NYCSA account to vote. Please make sure you have a [NYCSA](#) account and that your child's information is connected to your account! You need a code from your parent coordinator to allow your child's data to be connected to your account. If you haven't used your NYCSA, it may be deactivated.

Add to chat:

BP Application

<https://nycdoe.eballot.com/BPPA/en-BPApplicationForm>

Candidate Forums:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/education-councils/elections/candidate-forums>

Check your NYCSA Account!!

https://www.schoolsaccount.nyc/?link_id=2&can_id=5b2d0a9f37e91a08eccf05f58a403ad1&source=email-resolutions-workshop-today&email_referrer=email_2660047&email_subject=state-education-budget&&

CEC15 Vacancy

CEC15 currently has two vacancies on the council: one for the parent of an English Language Learner and another for the parent of a District 75 student.

Add to chat:

Please apply to the DOE directly at CCECinfo@schools.nyc.gov. Do not submit the application to CEC15. 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.

Panel for Education Policy (PEP) Elections

If you are interested in serving on the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) as one of the 5 parents elected by the CEC presidents, please complete the application and send to PEPParentApplications@schools.nyc.gov by April 15, 2025.

Add to chat:

Apply for PEP by April 15

Applications in nine languages and information about the Panel for Education Policy can be found here.

You must have at least one child currently attending a public, non-charter school in NYC and reside in the borough you seek to represent.

PEP April Meetings

The next PEP meeting is Wednesday, April 23 at 6pm at **Long Island City High School** (14-30 Broadway, Queens, New York 11106) The PEP will vote on the Fair Student Funding Formula. Speaker sign-up will begin at 5:30PM, at the door, and will close promptly at 6:15PM.

And there is a second PEP meeting Wednesday, April 30 at Sunset Park High School (153 35th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11232)

Add to chat:

Whether you attend or not, you can **send written testimony to the 24 PEP members** using https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezM7S0zfCMXb_BiXecJSnxsfl1E27CbCTwT0TflzuZbe3cAQ/viewform

Add to chat:

The Spring 2025 Citywide Conference for School and District Leadership Teams

Date: April 26, 2025

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics, 280 Pleasant Avenue, Manhattan, NY 10029.

Register Here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2025-citywide-conference-for-slts-dlts-saturday-april-26-tickets-1277835623749>

More information: <https://nycpscommunities.org/>

All representatives of NYCPS School and District Leadership Team constituent groups to an exciting and informative day of learning, collaboration, and relationship building to help create a safe and affirming educational environment and high-quality academic experience for all our students. Attendees will qualify for SLT and CTLE credits, and charter bus transportation (from each borough), translation/interpretation services, and limited childcare will be made available for registered participants.

And finally, in my continuing segment called, *Federal Government Watch*

The U.S. Department of Education sent a letter giving state education agencies 10 days to certify that their schools do not engage in any practices that the administration believes “illegally” promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Those that do not sign will not receive federal funding, officials said.

Add to chat:

https://www.chalkbeat.org/2025/04/03/trump-education-department-threatens-federal-funding-anti-dei-push/?utm_source=Chalkbeat&utm_campaign=cf71890c0e-National+NEW+Trump+administration+threatens+federal&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9091015053-cf71890c0e-1297483174&mc_cid=cf71890c0e&mc_eid=2272dcd5ef

However the NYSED issued a defiant response.

Daniel Morton-Bentley, the deputy commissioner for legal affairs at the state education agency in New York, wrote in a letter to federal education officials stating, “we understand that the current administration seeks to censor anything it deems ‘diversity, equity & inclusion.’”

“But there are no federal or state laws prohibiting the principles of D.E.I.,” Mr.

Morton-Bentley wrote, adding that the federal government has not defined what practices it believes violate civil rights protections.

Add to chat:

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2025/04/04/us/trump-news-updates?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referrerSource=articleShare&sgrp=p&pvid=5B1AD2F7-F0D0-47E8-A77B-0A9A1F25CEA6>

Executive Order to eliminate the DOE

Last month, on March 20, President Trump signed an unlawful executive order to close the [Department of Education](#).

What's Next? The Plan to Eliminate Title I Grants

According to Connecticut Congress Member Rosa DeLauro, using Project 2025 as guide, Trump [plans to eliminate Title I grants](#) that help 26 million students learn. The U.S. Representative released a [new fact sheet](#) detailing the number of teachers in each district that we stand to lose without Title I grants.. If we follow this fact sheet, Congressional Districts that cover District 15 could lose 13,598 teachers amounting to \$897,441,793.

Member Rosa DeLauro's letter to Secretary McMahon demanding answers to mass firings is [here](#). Her February statement on Elon Musk's and President Trump's dismantling of the Department of Education is [here](#).

Dignity for all Students Act

Various families attended our last meeting to criticize leadership for not speaking more forcefully in support of Trans and Gender Questioning students. I want to share the NYSED's 2023 legal update and best practices for Creating a Safe, Supportive, and Affirming School Environment for Transgender and Gender Expansive Students.

Add to chat:

Dignity for all Students Act

<https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/student-support-services/creating-a-safe-supportive-and-affirming-school-environment-for-transgender-and-gender-expansive-students.pdf>

And now we will dig into this response to our Resolution to Demand Accountability from the School Construction Authority.

SCA Response to CEC15 Resolution

 **2025-03-26 SCA response to CEC15 Resolution.pdf**