



Resolution Regarding the June 2026 Expiration of Mayoral Control and The Future of School Governance

Date: April 15, 2026

Sponsors: *Dr. Kaliris Y. Salas-Ramirez, Lacey Jordan, Lawanda Joyner, Vandana Bonilla, Tia Jackson and Kiera Jerez Alston.*

WHEREAS, the current state law granting the Mayor of New York City total control over our public school system is set to expire in June 2026; and

WHEREAS, this "sunset" period is the perfect time to admit that a one-size-fits-all, top-down approach to education is not working for the families in our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Community Education Council 4 as the elected representatives of our schools, have the local expertise and the ground-level perspective that a centralized Department of Education often ignores; and

WHEREAS, we have seen a consistent lack of accountability in essential services, specifically regarding the poor performance of school bus vendors and the ongoing struggle to ensure OMNY card accessibility for every student who needs one; and

WHEREAS, true parental engagement is impossible when the power to make major decisions on budgets, curriculum, and safety is held by a single office rather than shared with the community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council 4 (CEC4) calls on the New York State Legislature to move away from total mayoral control when the current law expires in June 2026, and instead support the transition toward a democratic school governance system grounded in shared decision-making, transparency, and community leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC4 calls for the establishment and full funding of an independent New York City Public Schools Governance Commission composed of parents, students, educators, Community Education Councils, School Leadership Teams, advocates, and policy experts, charged with designing a new system of school governance that reflects the needs and lived experiences of New York City communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall be specifically tasked with determining which functions of the New York City Department of Education should remain centralized to ensure

equity, consistency, and accountability, and which functions should be decentralized to empower districts, schools, and communities with meaningful decision-making authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall engage in a multi-year process that includes research, robust community engagement, development of a governance proposal, and submission of final recommendations to the State of New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during this transition period, the State shall enact a limited extension of mayoral control solely to allow for the work of the Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New York City Public Schools system must immediately begin strengthening and expanding the authority of Community Education Councils (CECs), School Leadership Teams (SLTs), and District Leadership Teams (DLTs), ensuring they have the training, resources, and decision-making power necessary to participate meaningfully in governance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such expansion of authority shall include granting CECs binding authority on zoning, co-locations, and district priorities, and providing SLTs shared decision-making power over school budgets, Comprehensive Educational Plans, and instructional priorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that governance structures must include intentional student leadership opportunities and meaningful participation in decision-making processes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any new governance system must include strong checks and balances, transparency in decision-making, and expanded public participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the governance system must center the needs of historically marginalized communities; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Chancellor, the Governor, and the leadership of the New York State Senate and Assembly.

Council members voted unanimously:

Motion by *Johanna Dominguez* seconded by *Lawanda Joyner*.

Council members as follows:

Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Sophie Oulai, Lacey Jordan, Lawanda Joyner, Johanna Dominguez, Elizabeth Soto-Cardona, Adriana Tlacomulco, Vandana Bonilla, Tia Jackson and Kiera Jerez Alston.

This Resolution was approved unanimously by the members at D4 CEC at the Calendar Meeting held on April 15th, 2026.