



**Community Education Council for District 4**  
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## **Resolution Supporting a Commission to Phase in Community Control and Democratize School Governance**

**Calendar meeting:** February 11, 2026

**Sponsors:** Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Lawanda Joyner, Johanna Dominguez and Tia Jackson.

**WHEREAS**, since 2002, under Michael Bloomberg, New York City public schools have been governed under a system of mayoral control, under which the Mayor appoints the Chancellor and a majority of the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), concentrating decision-making authority at the executive level;

**WHEREAS**, parent leaders, advocates, students and teachers call for a democratic school governance that centers racial equity, shared power, and meaningful participation of right holders and their communities in policy, budget, and accountability decisions;

**WHEREAS**, advocates, scholars and communities have documented that mayoral control has silenced parent and educator voices, weakened community oversight, and reduced transparency and accountability in decision-making affecting nearly one million students;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to state law, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) conducted multiple public hearings in 2023–2024 on New York City school governance, gathering testimony from students, parents, educators, unions, advocacy organizations, and elected officials;

**WHEREAS**, the NYSED 2024 report on the mayoral control hearings found that testimony overwhelmingly expressed concerns that mayoral control is anti-democratic, limits local accountability, and does not meaningfully include communities most impacted by school system decisions;

**WHEREAS**, the NYSED report further concluded that mayoral control has **not** demonstrated consistent improvement in educational outcomes attributable to centralized governance and recommended that New York State consider structural reforms, including establishing a commission to explore alternative governance models;

**WHEREAS**, during the 2025 mayoral campaign, Mayor Zohran Mamdani publicly committed to ending mayoral control and increasing democratic engagement across city governance, including in public education, acknowledging that families, students, and educators must have a direct role in shaping school policy;

**WHEREAS**, while efforts such as strengthening School Leadership Teams (SLTs) and elevating Parent Coordinator roles are positive, they are insufficient to represent the voices and decision-making authority of nearly one million students, their families, and approximately 150,000 educators across the system;

**WHEREAS**, communities such as East Harlem have long advocated for governance structures that support culturally responsive education, neighborhood-based decision-making, and accountability to local families and students;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council District 4 (East Harlem) supports the establishment of a state or city-authorized Commission on Democratic School Governance to design and recommend a phased transition toward community control of New York City public schools;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such a commission must include students, parents, educators, school leaders, community-based organizations, and experts in racial equity and democratic governance, and ensure robust public participation throughout its process;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the commission should evaluate governance models including elected school boards, borough- or district-level governing councils with binding authority, and co-governance structures that distribute power among rightsholders;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that governance reform must align with advocates' asks of prioritizing racial justice, equitable resource distribution, culturally sustaining education, and transparency in decision-making.

### **References**

- New York State Education Department. (2024). Report on Mayoral Control Public Hearings for New York City Schools. — <https://www.nysed.gov/news/2024/state-education-department-releases-report-mayoral-control-new-york-city-schools>
- New York State Education Department. Mayoral Control Hearings Overview and Testimony. — <https://www.nysed.gov/new-york-city-mayoral-control-hearings>
- New Yorkers for Racially Just Public Schools (RJPS). Education Justice Platform and Governance Positions. — <https://rjps.org>
- Coalition to Finally End Mayoral Control. Organizing Platform and Governance Demands. — <https://www.nycmayoralcontrolnot.org>
- New York City Panel for Educational Policy Governance Structure. — <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/leadership/panel-for-educational-policy>

***This Resolution was approved at D4 CEC Calendar Meeting held on February 11th, 2026, by 9 votes.***

### ***Council members as follows:***

*Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramire (Yes), Sophie Oulai (Absent), Lacey Jordan (Yes), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Adriana Tlacomulco (Yes) (Zoom), Lawanda Joyner (Yes), Vandana Bonilla (Yes), Tia Jackson (Yes) and Kiera Jerez Alston (Yes).*

**YES- 9**

**NO- 0**

**ABSTAIN- 0**

**ABSENT- 1**