



**Resolution on Establishing a Fair, Transparent, and Democratic Process for the Selection of the NYC Public Schools Chancellor**

**Sponsors:** Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Lawanda Joyner, Johanna Dominguez and Vandana Bonilla.

**WHEREAS**, Community Education Council District 4 (CEC4) in East Harlem represents a diverse, multilingual, immigrant-rich, and historically under-resourced community deeply impacted by systemwide leadership decisions made by the New York City Public Schools (NYCPS); and

**WHEREAS**, under current state law (2590) and city governance structures, the NYCPS Chancellor is appointed solely by the Mayor of the City of New York without a democratic or transparent public process, resulting in decades of declining trust and public dissatisfaction; and

**WHEREAS**, this unilateral system has contributed to harmful and inconsistent leadership transitions, a persistent Chancellor satisfaction rate below 50%, and policies that have too often failed to meaningfully support immigrant youth, multilingual learners, students with disabilities, Black and Brown students, LGBTQIA+ students, and students facing poverty, housing instability, criminalization, and trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, New Yorkers for Racially Just Public Schools (RJPS) has developed a comprehensive Education Justice Platform rooted in racial equity, community power, participatory democracy, culturally sustaining education, disability and immigrant justice, mental health supports, and the dismantling of white supremacy culture in decision-making; and

**WHEREAS**, District 4 families, educators, and community elders have a long legacy of progressive, community-driven, and child-centered education, including integrated schools, bilingual education innovations, and decades of grassroots leadership, and continue to demand democratic processes and meaningful participation in decisions shaping the future of NYCPS; and

**WHEREAS**, school systems across the nation—including Chicago Public Schools and districts governed by elected or representative school boards—have demonstrated that transparent, community-centered leadership selection processes are both effective and practical; and

**WHEREAS**, examples within New York State, such as the NYS Blue Ribbon Commission Ambassador Forums and participatory engagement processes used during superintendent reappointment cycles, demonstrate that the NYCPS Chancellor selection process can and should include broad community participation;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council for District 4 calls for the immediate creation and adoption of a fair, transparent, democratic, and community-centered Chancellor Selection Process aligned with the RJPS Education Justice Platform, the vision put forth by the Education Council Consotia and the needs of District 4; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chancellor selection process shall begin with meaningful multilingual, accessible, and inclusive community engagement, including:

**1. Identification of Community Rights-Holders, including but not limited to:**

- Students
- Parents and caregivers
- Educators and school staff
- School administrators
- Unions
- Community organizations
- Advocacy groups
- Immigrant-justice and disability-justice organizations
- Academics and education researchers
- Faith leaders
- Local elected officials

**2. Multiplatform Engagement Sessions designed to gather community input on:**

- What constitutes a high-quality, culturally sustaining, and equitable educational experience
- What systemic barriers prevent NYCPS from achieving this
- What the role and responsibilities of the Chancellor currently are
- What communities believe the Chancellor's role should be
- What leadership qualities, values, and commitments the Chancellor must embody
- How the search should be structured and overseen

3. A Public, Accessible Report summarizing all community feedback and serving as the foundation for the Chancellor job description and candidate criteria.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of New York shall develop and publish a Chancellor

Job Prospectus and Selection Criteria that:

- Reflect the findings of the citywide community engagement process
- Incorporate the principles of the RJPS Education Justice Platform
- Center racial equity, community partnership, and culturally sustaining leadership
- Are accessible to the public in multiple languages

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor shall establish a Representative Chancellor Selection Committee that includes:

- Students
- Parents
- Educators, school staff, and administrators
- Union representatives
- Community-based and advocacy organizations
- Experts in equity, child development, culturally responsive education, and public health

And that the demographics of the committee reflect the racial, linguistic, and socioeconomic diversity of NYCPS, including District 4.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Selection Committee shall:

1. Conduct a nationwide search using comprehensive, equity-centered recruitment strategies;
2. Create a public nomination process, including a role for CCECs to filter and forward public nominations;
3. Develop a public evaluation rubric aligned with community criteria, the job prospectus, and NYCPS goals;
4. Screen applicants and produce a finalist pool of 3–5 candidates, accompanied by a public report summarizing the process, methodology, and equity considerations.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City shall host public candidate forums, including:

- At least one in-person forum with livestreaming
- At least one virtual forum
- Rights-holder–specific focus groups, particularly for students, educators, and families
- Multilingual access, disability access, and child-friendly spaces
- A public process for families, students, and educators to submit questions

And that public feedback must be collected through surveys, CCEC sessions, and online portals.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Selection Committee shall:

1. Review public feedback;
2. Finalize a ranking of the 3–5 candidates; and
3. Submit the ranked list, with rationales and a summary of public input, to the Mayor.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if the Mayor-elect chooses any candidate other than the committee’s top-ranked choice, the Mayor-elect must issue a public written explanation detailing the reasons for the decision.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the entire process follow a clear, predictable timeline, such as:

- November/December: Community engagement & public release of criteria

- January: Selection Committee convened; recruitment begins
- February: Finalist pool established
- April: Public forums; committee submits ranked list
- May: Mayor announces Chancellor appointment

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that CEC District 4 urges the Mayor-elect and this transition team, the New York State Legislature, and all relevant agencies to adopt this democratic, transparent, education-justice–aligned selection process to ensure that the next Chancellor reflects the values, needs, and aspirations of the communities most impacted by public education—especially the students and families of East Harlem.

***This Resolution was approved at D4 CEC Calendar Meeting held on December 10th, 2025, by 8 votes.***

***Council members as follows:***

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

**YES- 8**

**NO- 0**

**ABSTAIN- 0**

**ABSENT- 1**