



**Community Education Council for District 4**  
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<b>President</b> Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b> Sophie Oulai	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b> Lacey Jordan– D75 Rep	<b>Recording Secretary</b> Lawanda Joyner– MBPA	<b>Treasurer</b> Johanna Domínguez– ELL
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**Council Members:**  
 Elizabeth Soto-Cardona  
 Adriana Tlacomulco  
 Vandana Bonilla– MBPA  
 Tia Jackson IEP  
 Kiera Jerez Alston

**District 4 Superintendent:**  
 Dr. Kristy De La Cruz

**High School Student Representatives**  
 Brooke Howard  
 Kanysia Crute

**Statement by Community Education Council D4 East Harlem**

**Thank you, Chancellor Samuels, for a Pause that Honors Community Voice and Creates Space to Help all Children Thrive**

The Community Education Council for District 4 (CEC4) extends our deep gratitude and respect to Chancellor Kamar Samuels for listening to students, families, and educators and for pausing the district 3 proposals and the AI high school plan.

These proposals included school closures/truncations, relocations, and the creation of an AI-focused high school all of which were withdrawn from the April 29th PEP meeting following significant community concerns about equity, access, and the impact on school communities. This decision reflects a willingness to respond to community voices and creates the space needed to move forward with greater care and intention for our communities.

As neighbors to District 3, we share families, resources, and community spaces. The impact of these decisions extends beyond district lines, which is why CEC4 felt a responsibility to be engaged and to stand in solidarity. We are deeply appreciative that this pause allows the time necessary to get this right, for all our communities.

This moment affirms the urgency of the positions CEC4 has already taken:

**Addressing Anti-Blackness in Our Schools**

We are grateful that this pause reflects the need to slow down and ensure decisions do not perpetuate harm. CEC4 has called for systemwide action to confront anti-Black racism in our schools, including:

- Strong accountability for harm through Chancellor’s regulation D210
- Expansion of culturally responsive and sustaining education (CRSE)
- Investment in restorative justice practices
- School environments where Black students are safe, affirmed, and thriving by having anti-bias training for all community members
- Implementing Equity Councils at the level of the school and district to engage in meaningful conversations about policies, utilization proposals, culture and climate in our schools.

This pause creates the opportunity to align future proposals with these commitments.

**Moratorium on AI in Schools**

CEC4 continues to call for a pause on the expansion of artificial intelligence in our schools until clear

safeguards are in place. As schools across the city grapple with inconsistent policies and growing concerns about misuse, bias, and impacts on learning, the need for thoughtful, evidence-based approaches is clear.

We call for:

- Strong student data privacy protections
- Independent evaluation of bias and harm that different AI platforms can cause
- Evidence driven practices that support critical thinking and learning in our classrooms, rather than relying on AI
- Full transparency and community engagement on AI guidance moving forward

We are excited to continue to work with our Superintendent Dr. Dela Cruz, Chancellor Kamar Samuels and his cabinet to support students' abilities to thrive in our schools. Thank you, Chancellor, for leading in a transformational, centering care and equity for our children.

*CEC4 Council members voted unanimously:*

**Motion by Lawanda Joyner seconded by Lacey Jordan.**

**D4 CEC 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 Statement was approved unanimously by the members at D4 CEC Calendar Meeting held on May 13th, 2026.*