



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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November 12, 2020

Chancellor Richard Carranza
NYC Board of Education
52 Chambers St.
New York, NY 10007

Deputy Chancellor Josh Wallack
Early Childhood Education and Student Enrollment
NYC Board of Education
52 Chambers St.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Carranza and Deputy Chancellor Wallack:

Our students and families face profound challenges across the city as they manage the many challenges and disruptions to their educational experiences. One issue that the Department of Education should by now be able to communicate is the Admissions process for the 2021-2022 school year. While the delay of high school and middle school application deadlines was welcome and necessary, it is now time to provide families with guidance and planning for their students' futures.

The students and families of District 3 need:

- A new timeline for the entire application process. When will schools need to define rubrics? What is the state of development for virtual tours? What effect will this have on the date for release of final assignments in the spring?
- In addition to the final application date, students need schedules for virtual tours, fairs, tests (SHSAT and school-based), auditions, and other application material deadlines.
- Access to school tour date information must be shared equitably. In the past, tour dates have been released inconsistently, leaving students and parents frustrated with the difficulty of signing up for tours. The DOE must provide an accurate and current centralised source for school tour information and dates.
- School tours must be equitable. Schools need resources and expertise to develop virtual tours. Schools need to offer tours to all interested families; virtual tours should not have the same capacity limitations that in-person tours had. Families should not miss the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of schools.

- If there are geographic preferences for some district or boroughs the DOE must ensure that all districts and boroughs have that same privilege. Families need to know if geographic priorities remain for any schools and if so how will you ensure equal opportunity among students in different areas?

CEC3 has thoughtfully engaged in admissions discussions over many years. The Council has completed significant work to support equity in admissions as is apparent in our historic Diversity in Admissions Priority and, recently, in our June 2020 Resolution (Vol. 20 No. 7). Changes to admissions must honor the goals of the D3 Middle School Diversity in Admissions initiative, namely to have “the schools of District 3 reflect the families in the District 3 community.” This years-long multi-stakeholder process resulted in support for a process that targets economic and academic diversity. It is vital that changes to the admissions process do not undermine this body of work. Now, more than ever we remind the DOE of its commitment during the D3 Diversity process to support District 3 schools to ensure that all schools are prepared to support all learners.

Respectfully,
Community Education Council District 3

cc: The Honorable Bill DeBlasio, Mayor
 Executive Superintendent, Manhattan, Marisol Rosales
 District 3 Superintendent Christine Loughlin
 Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
 NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
 NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
 NYS Regents Member, 1st District, Nan Eileen Mead
 Panel for Educational Policy Member, Michael Kraft
 City Councilmember Mark Treyger
 City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal
 City Councilmember Bill Perkins
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 State Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal
 State Assembly Member Daniel J. O’Donnell
 State Assembly Member Inez Dickens
 State Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried
 State Assembly Member Robert J. Rodriguez
 State Senator John Liu, Chair, Subcommittee on NYC Education
 State Senator Shelley Mayer, Chair, Committee on Education
 State Senator Brian Benjamin
 State Senator Brad Hoylman
 State Senator Robert Jackson
 State Senator Jose M. Serrano
 U.S. Congressman Adriano Espaillat
 U.S. Congressman Jerrold L. Nadler
 United Federation of Teachers President Michel Mulgrew
 Community Board 7 Chair Mark Diller
 Community Board 10 Chair Cicely Harris