

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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CEC3 Resolution Vol. 16 (P) No. 5

Resolution to Call Upon the Panel for Education Policy to Revise Certain Sections of CR A-101 Admissions Policy

Approved at the May 25th, 2016 CEC3 Calendar Meeting by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present at the time of the vote (8 in favor / 0 opposed)

Whereas, Chancellor's Regulation A-101 ("CR-A101") is the governing document for elementary school and middle school admissions;

Whereas, pursuant to Section I of CR-A101, the Office of Student Enrollment (Student Enrollment) maintains sole authority and responsibility for enrollment policy and enrollment planning for all schools, except those in District 75 and District 79;

Whereas, pursuant to Section I of CR-A101, the Superintendents for those districts maintain responsibility for enrollment operations and policy in those districts;

Whereas, families move into the zones of elementary schools considered to be more desirable, causing massive overcrowding in one portion of the district;

Whereas, families who live in zones with elementary schools considered to be less desirable often enroll in schools outside of their zoned school:

Whereas, at least one elementary school in CSD3 is unzoned, yet its student body does not reflect the diversity of CSD3;

Whereas, CSD3 has some of the most socioeconomically segregated elementary and middle schools in New York City;

Whereas, Dual Language programs can face enrollment challenges when limited to students from the school's catchment zone;

Whereas, Out-of-zone in-district students who are interested in enrolling in a Dual Language program cannot be enrolled until as late as October due to current A101 enrollment priority requirements;

Whereas, Changing schools in October can be disruptive to students and families, and to school planning, resulting in students not enrolling in the desired Dual Language program;

Whereas, Some elementary and middle schools in CSD3 have a disproportionate number of ELLs and Students with Disabilities relative to the districtwide average;

Whereas, Families without access to technology are 'shut out' of tours for elementary and middle schools that are considered to be more desirable; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Community Education Council District 3 calls on the Panel for Education Policy (PEP) to make following changes to A-101:

- 1. Elementary and Middle Schools shall host at least two (2) open houses where no pre-registration is required. Such open houses shall be publicized through the Office of the Superintendent.
- 2. Waitlists shall be supervised jointly by the Office of the Superintendent and each individual school to ensure that waitlists are cleared in consecutive numerical order, and parents shall be notified in writing of their child's waitlist position."
- 3. Families who accept alternative placement in an elementary school for Kindergarten shall forfeit the Right of Return to their zoned elementary school. Students with IEPs and students who have been identified as ELLs are exempt from the foregoing.
- 4. The Right of Return shall be suspended for any elementary school whose enrollment for two consecutive years exceeds the lesser of one half classroom in excess of, or 110% of, capacity according to the Blue Book. Students with IEPs and students who have been identified as ELLs are exempt from the foregoing. Suspension of Right of Return shall remain in place until enrollment returns to 100%, or less, of Blue Book capacity.
- 5. Any elementary school whose enrollment is at or below 80% or 100 students below Blue Book capacity, whichever is greater, for two consecutive years, shall

have the option to amend its admissions policy to allocate priority seats to students outside the catchment zone.

6. Principals shall be able to offer available Dual Language seats, once initial acceptance offers have been distributed and the Principal has determined that Dual Language seats still remain available, to out-of-zone in-district students who commit to the Dual Language program