

Resolution on Improving School Governance under Mayoral Control of New York City Public Schools

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department's review of mayoral control and subsequent public testimony identified ongoing concerns about excessive centralization of authority, limited checks and balances, insufficient independence on the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), and inadequate community input in New York City public school governance; and

WHEREAS, public testimony and legislative discussions have called for reforms that strengthen accountability, increase parent and community representation, and give Community and Citywide Education Councils (CCECs) a more meaningful role in educational policymaking; and

WHEREAS, the statutory authorization for mayoral control of New York City Public Schools is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026, and state and city leaders have expressed support for extending mayoral control together with structural reforms; and

WHEREAS, the current 24-member PEP is significantly larger than the governing boards of most large school systems in the United States, raising concerns about efficiency and deliberative effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the current governance structure limits direct democratic participation by parents in selecting PEP representatives and does not provide sufficient policymaking authority to CCECs, despite their statutory role in representing community interests; and

WHEREAS, the current eligibility rules for student members have resulted in a high vacancy rate, limiting student voice in council work; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Education Council (CEC) 24 urges the New York State Legislature to condition any extension of mayoral control on amendments to Education Law § 2590 et seq. that improve representation, accountability, and community participation.

Requested Reforms for the PEP

1. Reduce the number of voting members on the PEP to twelve.
2. Provide for a more balanced appointment structure with six mayoral appointees, including parents of students in specialized programs, and one independent chair.
3. Establish a democratic citywide election process for five parent PEP members using existing Family and Community Empowerment election infrastructure and NYC Schools Accounts for voting.

4. Require the PEP to conduct an annual public evaluation of the Chancellor.
5. Extend elected PEP member terms from one year to two years.

Requested Reforms for CCECs

1. Grant greater district-level flexibility so superintendents, in consultation with CCECs, can better address local educational needs.
2. Authorize shared decision-making by CCECs and district superintendents on district educational goals and major district-wide programmatic changes.
3. Expand eligibility for non-voting student CEC members to include any **high school junior** residing in the district who demonstrates civic engagement.
4. Amend quorum rules so councils may operate based on a majority of currently seated members rather than total authorized membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CEC 24 urges FACE to take administrative actions to support these reforms, including:

- convening public forums before major policy changes;
- strengthening outreach and recruitment for student members;
- amending Chancellor's Regulation A-655 to include the district CEC president or designee as a voting member of the District Leadership Team;
- amending Chancellor's Regulation D-200 to eliminate the nominating committee and allow direct democratic elections for parent PEP members; and
- publishing a public election calendar and using existing CCEC election infrastructure to administer parent PEP elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CEC 24 urges that these reforms take effect upon enactment of the necessary amendments to Education Law § 2590, with elections for parent PEP representatives under the new structure to be administered before December 31, 2026.