



DANIEL SQUADRON  
SENATOR, 25TH DISTRICT

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

RANKING MEMBER  
INVESTIGATIONS  
AND GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEES  
CODES  
CONSUMER PROTECTION  
CORPORATIONS,  
AUTHORITIES  
& COMMISSIONS  
JUDICIARY  
TRANSPORTATION

November 7, 2011

Dennis Walcott  
Chancellor  
New York City Department of Education  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Walcott:

I write regarding the Department of Education's (DOE) 2010-2011 progress report, in which P.S. 137, the John L. Bernstein School, received an "F" grade. As a result, the school is being considered for closure by DOE. While I appreciate that struggling schools cannot continue to provide poor quality education, I encourage DOE to find an alternative to closure.

Any school closure is disruptive to teachers, parents, and children. Families and staff form a community, and it is important that children have continuity in their surroundings and the people with whom they learn. P.S. 137 is an integral part of the Lower East Side, serving local families and engaging parents and their neighbors. I urge you to consider the possibility that, with the right support and attention, P.S. 137 will be able to make progress and provide the education that families in the neighborhood deserve. I urge you to work with the principal, parents, and the local community to develop strategies to prevent the closure of this important neighborhood school.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns and the P.S. 137 community. If you have any questions, you may reach me at (212) 298-5565.

Sincerely,

Daniel Squadron  
State Senator  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District