

I am writing to express my support to extend mayoral control of New York City's public school system. I am the parent of 3 children who graduated from NYC's public schools and I am also a NYC teacher at P.S. 262 in Brooklyn, NY.

In the past two school years, our entire school system has been in upheaval, and even before the pandemic things were less than satisfactory. I am a 4th grade teacher and every year I find myself spending most of the school year working just to get my students up to grade level because far too many of them come to me so far behind.

Every good workman needs their tools to be effective and yet my particular school discourages its staff from utilizing simple processes like planning and outlining curriculum for the year. In addition, we lack the necessary books to implement basic curriculum, there is a shortage of science teachers and a variation of art programs have gone missing. As a parent whose children attended public schools, having worked at other schools in Brooklyn and speaking to many of my colleagues, I can attest that these are systemic wide issues that exist across the city.

I believe in the work that Mayor Eric Adams and his team have set out to do to transform the Department of Education into a well oiled machine that serves every student that sits in one of those seats. It is critically important that the city make room for Mayor Adam's vision to be implemented by him and his team because it is his exact type of leadership that our school system needs to truly effect much needed change.

Yes, COVID-19 has created additional stress, anxiety, emotional pain and learning loss for New York's public-school students, including the students that I teach but the pandemic is definitely not the beginning source of any of these issues. We can no longer afford for the Department of Education's Administration to limit the work and ingenuity of serious minded Educators like myself who want to do whatever is necessary to reach and teach our students.

Every student can learn and should be given equal opportunity to learn. There is currently a system in place where Principals align themselves with Superintendents and together they alienate and undermine Teachers' efforts to create interactive learning environments. An alliance between parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, the chancellor's office and the mayor's office needs to be established. I am confident that this is the exact type of environment that Mayor Adams and his team is striving for and that is why I support mayoral control.