



2021 ANNUAL
REPORT

NEW YORK STATE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NYC EDUCATION



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EDUCATION
HIGHER EDUCATION
FINANCE
BUDGET AND REVENUE
TRANSPORTATION
RULES

December 17, 2021

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
New York State Senate Majority Leader
NYS Capitol Building, Room 330
Albany, NY 12247

Re: 2021 Annual Report for the New York City Education Committee

Dear Madame Leader,

It was my pleasure and honor to serve as Chair of the New York City Education Committee this year. The following is the committee report for 2021.

New York City Schools continued to face enormous challenges this past year, including dealing with the fallout of the pandemic and the departure of a divisive Chancellor this past March. Families and teachers struggled with the instability caused by a school system which often shifted policy direction midstream or at the last minute, and failed to engage communities in a meaningful way around certain directives such as ending remote learning options, opting-in to COVID-19 testing, eliminating geographic priorities, or scuttling of gifted and talented programs. The new administration will need to put the school system on more steady footing and improve communication with families.

On a positive note during this challenging year, NYC Schools benefited enormously from the NYS Senate's commitment to fully fund Foundation Aid, a longstanding goal of this committee. In conjunction with the Education Committee, we held hearings this fall to examine how schools are utilizing increased Foundation Aid and federal ARP funds, and we will continue this oversight into the coming year. The Committee also remains committed to ensuring that the three year phase-in of Foundation Aid proceeds as planned.

As we move forward into the 2022 legislative session, the main focus of the New York City Education Committee will be to examine mayoral accountability, which is set to expire in June 2022. The Committee's goal is to ensure that members of the Senate are well-informed about the

pros and cons of the existing system of mayoral accountability as they consider whether to renew it and what, if any, changes would be in order.

The Committee will also prioritize school health and safety, as newly-emerging COVID-19 variants impact the health of students, teachers and staff in school buildings; transportation issues, particularly protections for school bus drivers and transport access for special education students; regulation of charter schools; and ensuring that clearing of NYC's backlog of special education hearings is effectively implemented as the Impartial Hearing Office transitions from DOE into a revamped Special Education Unit under the supervision of OATH.

Many thanks to the Senate Democratic Majority for its support of the important work that was undertaken this year, to the members of the committee for their ongoing commitment to education, and to you Madame Leader for your thoughtful and remarkable leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John C. Liu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John C. Liu

New York City Education Committee Members

Senator John C. Liu, Chair

Senator Jabari Brisport

Senator Andrew J. Lanza,
Ranking Minority Member

Senator Simcha Felder

Senator Robert Jackson

Senator James Tedisco

Senator Jessica Ramos

Staff: Amanda Godkin, Maria Morrissey

Committee Jurisdiction

The committee oversees provisions of the Education Law that exclusively impact the school district of the City of New York, the largest public school system in the nation.

Summary of Committee Activity

Bill No.	
S1110B	<p>LIU AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requirements associated with the New York city community school district system and the length of certain council members' terms SUMM : Amd §2590-b, Ed L Relates to requirements associated with the New York city community school district system; permits city-wide council presidents to vote for a member of the city board; allows parents whose children who at any time in the past enrolled in a bilingual or English as a second language program to serve on the city-wide council on English language learners. 01/07/21 REFERRED TO NEW YORK CITY EDUCATION 05/19/21 1ST REPORT CAL.1183 05/20/21 2ND REPORT CAL. 05/24/21 ADVANCED TO THIRD READING 06/01/21 AMENDED ON THIRD READING (T) 1110A 06/02/21 AMENDED ON THIRD READING 1110B 06/07/21 PASSED SENATE 06/07/21 DELIVERED TO ASSEMBLY 06/07/21 referred to education</p>
S5645	<p>PARKER AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to creating a city-wide council for district seventy-five SUMM : Amd §2590-b, Ed L Creates a city-wide council for district seventy-five to advise and comment on educational or instructional policies involving district seventy-five services. 03/15/21 REFERRED TO NEW YORK CITY EDUCATION 05/19/21 1ST REPORT CAL.1184 05/20/21 2ND REPORT CAL. 05/24/21 ADVANCED TO THIRD READING 06/02/21 PASSED SENATE 06/02/21 DELIVERED TO ASSEMBLY 06/02/21 referred to education</p>

S6682

LIU, FELDER, GOUNARDES, MAYER

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to appointing an impartial hearing officer during certain appeal procedures for children with handicapping conditions

SUMM : Amd §4404, Ed L Appoints an impartial hearing officer to issue an order of relief if a parent or person in parental relation of a student files a due process complaint notice seeking an impartial due process hearing.

05/11/21 REFERRED TO NEW YORK CITY EDUCATION

05/19/21 1ST REPORT CAL.1185

05/20/21 2ND REPORT CAL.

05/24/21 ADVANCED TO THIRD READING

06/03/21 PASSED SENATE

06/03/21 DELIVERED TO ASSEMBLY

06/03/21 referred to ways and means

06/10/21 substituted for a7614

06/10/21 ordered to third reading rules cal.775

06/10/21 passed assembly

06/10/21 returned to senate



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