

## Diller, Mark (CB)

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**From:** Ali, Marielle (MBPO)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2026 11:50 AM  
**To:** Ali, Marielle (MBPO)  
**Cc:** Serge St Leger Jr  
**Subject:** Fw: NYCPS End of the Year Update

Dear DMs,

Please find the NYCPS updates Serge mentioned at Borough Service Cabinet this morning.

Best,  
Marielle

Marielle Ali  
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*She/Her/Hers*

 [Book time to meet with me](#)

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**From:** Serge St Leger Jr <[SStLeger@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:SStLeger@schools.nyc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2026 11:36 AM  
**To:** Ali, Marielle (MBPO) <[marielleali@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:marielleali@manhattanbp.nyc.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: NYCPS End of the Year Update

Please find the policy updates attached below. Feel free to share with community board representatives and their constituencies.

Thank you as always,  
Serge

Serge St. Leger, Jr.  
Senior Director, Office of Policy and Advocacy



Partners,

Wanted to share with you a bit more information related to class size planning. The NYC Department of Education receives some of its annual budget from the NY State Foundation Aid program. Every year, the State allows some of the additional aid to be used for growth in general operating costs and investment in ongoing programs. However, some of the funding must be used according to the State’s “Contracts for Excellence” law. These funds under State law must be given to certain schools and must be spent by those schools in specific program areas. The [Contract for Excellence](#) must be developed through a public process, which must include a public hearing held within each New York City county. In addition, public meetings must be held in each community district related to district-specific contracts. Here is a list of all the planned engagements on Contracts for Excellence.

Date	Borough
Thursday, June 25, 2026	Bronx
Monday, June 29, 2026	Manhattan
Tuesday, June 30, 2026	Staten Island
Wednesday, July 1, 2026	Queens
Thursday, July 2, 2026	Brooklyn

Please note this list will continue to be updated as more dates become available. Please share this important information with your networks.

Dear Partners,

The end of the school year is upon us! And the Knicks are still champions! We are excited to share a lot of significant updates and what we are looking forward to as summer approaches and in preparation for next school year.

Earlier this month, Chancellor Samuels announced the launch of **District Working Groups** in five school districts tasked with creating proposals to accelerate the work of building a stronger school system, rooted in academically rigorous, safe and integrated schools. This work is also defined by a truly integrated school system — beyond simply demographic inclusivity, but a focus on diversity of ability, socioeconomic status, and language.

Beginning this month and continuing throughout the year, in Districts 3, 7, 13, 16, and 25, working groups comprised of teachers, principals, parent leaders, and community organizations will collaborate on strategies to address structural and instructional inequities in their district. Convened by district superintendents, each working group will have autonomy on how they conduct this work, but all will have monthly working group sessions to collaboratively develop plans to address their district's unique and complex challenges. Superintendents in these districts will also work directly with NYCPS's central leadership team to review data and evaluate how it could be used to support a truly integrated system.

Recently, the Chancellor also shared the report from his citywide **Engagement Tour**, which brings together takeaways and shares how they are shaping our path forward for NYCPS. Chancellor Samuels hosted 10 in-depth Community Conversations—two in each borough—where more than 1,300 students, families, staff, elected officials, and community members engaged in thoughtful discussions. In addition, he visited schools across all 45 superintendent districts and met with these same stakeholders in their local communities. All of these interactions informed the report, which can be found [here](#).

The New York State legislative session ended with a number of significant items that have a deep impact on our school system. First, the legislature passed a **two-year extension of Mayoral Control**. The legislature also passed, and Governor signed, a **revision to the State's 2022 class size law** that provides the city with an additional two-year extension to comply with the mandates. This change means that the city will now have to meet the mandate in the 2029-30. In addition, earlier this month the Mayor and Chancellor released the NYCPS **Class Size Reduction Plan (CSRP)**. Under this plan to meet class size goals, the Mamdani Administration has added an additional \$1.5 billion to the capital plan and \$244 million allocated to schools in Fiscal Year 2027 to hire additional teachers and bring more high-quality educators into smaller classrooms. Finally, while there is always more advocating to be done, the State updated their **Foundation Aid** formula to include a new students in temporary housing and foster care weight as well as an increase to the ELL weight.

The Chancellor testified at the City Council on the Mayor's FY27 **Executive Budget** and we were grateful to see many of you advocating for your education priorities as well. The Chancellor highlighted his vision and significant investments made in Every Child and Family is Known, early childhood education, and NYC Reads and Solves among several others. The Mayor and Chancellor also announced that NYCPS will **hold schools harmless** regardless of any drops in enrollment, an investment in stability for schools. Additionally, as principals plan for next year, schools have received their school budget allocations for SY 26-27.

At the June meeting of the **Panel for Educational Policy (PEP)**, the Panel passed **updates to four Chancellor's Regulations** covering a range of topics from student attendance to our School and District Leadership Teams. You can find the updates on the [PEP's website](#) under the June 17th meeting and we are happy to discuss any of them with you. We did want to highlight **Chancellor's Regulation A-655**, which sets out the rights and responsibilities of School Leadership Teams (SLTs) and District Leadership Teams (DLTs) and had not been updated since 2010. Not only do these updates clarify operational aspects of these essential bodies to help them run more effectively but they also added middle school students and Title I parents as mandatory

members to SLTs. This is a big step forward in ensuring our school-based leadership structures are more equitable and representative of community voices.

Mayor Mamdani last week named **Celeste Ramirez the new CEO and President of the New York City School Construction Authority (SCA)**. The SCA is responsible for designing and building safe, welcoming and sustainable public schools for New York City's students. Ramirez returns to the SCA after previously serving in multiple leadership roles at the agency before founding and leading her own construction management firm. Born in the Dominican Republic and raised in the Bronx, Ramirez will become the first Latina New Yorker to lead the SCA.

New York City is and always will be a city for all immigrants. We continue to work to enhance our supports for immigrant students and families and are incredibly grateful for your support and advocacy. We are thrilled to share with you all a new resource for our schools, students and families – our [Know Your Rights](#) comic. Please share this widely to your communities!

2-K applications are now open! The applications close on Friday, June 26th. Families can explore their options using **MySchools.nyc** to find and apply to programs that they are interested in. Please feel free to use [this toolkit](#) to publicize and ensure your communities apply!

As the end of the school year approaches, every single day still matters! When students miss school, they lose instruction time. We ask that you continue to help us inform families on the importance of **attendance** and keeping students in school every day by using [this toolkit](#) to support messaging to your community.

Finally, although the school year ends this week, our work supporting young people does not! Anyone 18 or younger can access **free Summer Meals** (breakfast and lunch) starting on June 29th at any of the locations found through our [website](#). And we are excited to kick off another year of [Summer Rising](#) on July 1st, where our students get a mix of academic, social-emotional learning, and enrichment throughout July and August.

As always, we are here to work with you on NYCPS's and your priorities. Even though school will be out for the summer, our office will be here working alongside all of you in preparation for another great school year in 2026-2027.

Sincerely,

Katie, David, Serge, and D'vonte  
Office of Policy and Advocacy