



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JESSICA CHAIT
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

November 15th, 2024

Molly Wasow Park
Commissioner
Department of Social Services
33 Beaver St., New York NY, 10004

Melissa Aviles-Ramos
Chancellor.
Department of Education
52 Chambers St., New York NY, 10007

Re: Impact of 60 Day Eviction Policy for students and families in DHS shelters

Dear Commissioner Park and Chancellor Aviles-Ramos

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 6, 2024, voted 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, in favor of waiving Department of Homeless Services' (DHS) 60-day evictions for families with children enrolled in New York City Public Schools. MCB4 is grateful for the visit by Iris Gersten, Regional Director of Students in Temporary Housing for Schools District 2 to the Arts, Culture, Education & Schools (ACES) Committee on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. Ms. Gersten discussed the harmful and counterproductive effects that shelter evictions are having on students, their families, and the schools the schools they attend.

Similar to the 60-day shelter evictions on families residing in Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Centers (HERRC's) implemented in December 2023¹, the new policy for DHS shelters primarily targets recently arrived migrants seeking asylum. Families with children who arrived after March 15, 2022, and are not receiving program benefits through Human Resources Access (HRA) called "Cash Assistance" are being notified that their shelter placement will end after 60 days. At that time, families must pack their belongings and find somewhere else to live or reapply for temporary shelter at the Arrival Center currently located at the Roosevelt Hotel at 45 E. 45th Street. The haphazard 60-day shelter eviction policies for families with school

¹ <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/12/17-New-Bizz-Letter-to-Mayors-office-regarding-impact-new-60-day-notice-policy-on-children-living-in-shelter.pdf>

age children have resulted in the following:

- Increased school absences and loss of learning due to shelter and school instability
- Increased school absences due to the long wait for new bus routes with each shelter move
- Increased school absences due to the reapplication process at the Roosevelt Hotel which in some cases requires children to be present
- An increase in babies being born in shelters to avoid evictions
- Increase in lost academic and health documents that delay a student's ability to receive help
- An increase in disruption to school community and budgets at the five public elementary schools located in CB4. The number of Students in Temporary Housing (STH) as of early October are as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>#STH</u>
PS 11	36
PS 33	140
PS 51	213
PS 111	155
PS 212	70

Furthermore, the 60-day eviction policies have left schools staff in the dark on where students have gone and created the additional challenge of trying to locate them. While our school leadership and staff are doing exemplary work in welcoming and educating all students, the city is failing our schools by not providing more bilingual educators, social workers, and community coordinators to handle the large number of asylum-seeking students.

MCB4 remains committed to working with the Mayor's Office, DHS and the Department of Education to help ensure positive educational outcomes for all students regardless of their country of origin. We urge the Mayor and DHS to waive 60-day shelter eviction policies for families with children in New York City Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Jessica Chait
Chair
Community Board 4



Josephine Ishmon
Co-Chair
ACES Committee



Matt Green
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

CC: Hon. Erik Adams, Mayor
Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council Member
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Council Member
Hon. Rita Joseph, Council Member
Robin Forst, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit
Kelly McGuire, Superintendent, School District 2