

## Inspiration

“Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with deeper meaning.” —Maya Angelou

## Chancellor’s Message

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you had an enjoyable and restful summer. The work you do for our schools is invaluable, and I am greatly looking forward to collaborating during the months ahead. That is why I am very excited to introduce you to the first issue of *Parent Leader Times*. This quarterly newsletter was created to serve as a dialogue between us. I encourage you to see your role as both cheerleader and essential member of a “think tank” for parents across the City. Please use this newsletter as a tool for that think tank.

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### On My Mind

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### Parent Leader Spotlight

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### Did You Know?

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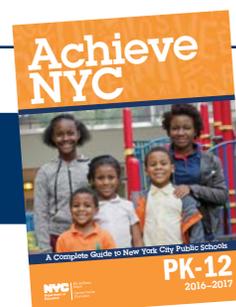
### Resources and Points of Contact

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## Dates to Remember

- ▶ **Sept. 26:** CEC Bylaws Training  
10 a.m.: 150 William St.  
6 p.m.: Tweed Courthouse
- ▶ **Sept. 27:** CEC 26 Town Hall—M.S. 74
- ▶ **Sept. 28:** High School Family Night
- ▶ **Oct. 3-4:** Rosh Hashanah  
(No school)
- ▶ **Oct 10:** Columbus Day  
(No school)
- ▶ **Oct. 12:** Yom Kippur (No school)
- ▶ **Oct. 13:** CPAC Monthly Meeting
- ▶ **Oct. 13:** CEC 5 Town Hall—P.S. 125

[Read more here](#)



# Chancellor's Message

Dear Parent Leader,

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you had an enjoyable and restful summer. The work you do for our schools is invaluable, and I am greatly looking forward to collaborating during the months ahead. That is why I am very excited to introduce you to the first issue of ***Parent Leader Times***. This quarterly newsletter was created to serve as a dialogue between us. I encourage you to see your role as both cheerleader and essential member of a “think tank” for parents across the City. Please use this newsletter as a tool for that think tank.

Another purpose of ***Parent Leader Times*** is to provide you with timely updates on [Equity and Excellence for All](#), the vision Mayor de Blasio and I share for all New York City public school students. We believe that every child—from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade—should be on a path to college and a meaningful career. We have set ambitious and attainable goals and will not rest until we have accomplished them.

We need to collaborate with parents now more than ever on increased student achievement. In the coming months, I urge you to use your skills as parent leaders to embrace and promote student-led conferences and curriculum nights in your schools and districts. The beauty of family engagement is that it can be adapted to best serve a particular community's needs, so please assess *your* community's needs and let's discuss what else we can do. What are we missing?

Along those lines, this fall, the Division of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) will be offering a series of conferences for parents. Please help spread the word, starting with an event for middle

school English Language Learners and their parents on College Access for All, which will take place at Tweed Courthouse on Friday, October 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. Please let members of your district know that translation and interpretation services will be available. More information about this and other events is forthcoming.

Already, we have much to be proud of. New York City students made substantial gains on State exams, with scores improving in every borough and district. Our graduation, postsecondary enrollment, and college readiness rates are at record highs. While we should celebrate our progress, we still have more work to do, especially with English Language Learners and students with special needs. Through **Equity and Excellence for All**, we will empower students in every neighborhood on their path to success.

I want you all to have the information and tools you need to feel inspired and empowered to do your important work, and I look forward to receiving feedback and questions from you. I hope you gain a lot from ***Parent Leader Times***, and will think of your mission this way: the more you know, the more you help, and the better work we do as a team for all families.

Please accept my gratitude for your hard work, passion, and commitment, and know that you have my trust and appreciation going forward.

Here's to a great school year!

Warmly,  
Carmen



# On My Mind

## Goals for the New School Year

Every year I say it: September is my favorite month! It is a time of new beginnings and optimism and as we open our doors for a new school year, I am thrilled to collaborate with parent leaders as talented, energetic, and committed as you. I am focused on two main goals right now and I welcome your input in bringing them to fruition.

## Equity and Excellence for All

Mayor de Blasio and I share a vision of **Equity and Excellence for All**. We believe that every child, in every neighborhood, should be on a path to college and a meaningful career. We have set ambitious goals for New York City: by 2026, 80 percent of our students will graduate high school on time, and two thirds will be college ready. To achieve these goals, we have started early, providing a strong foundation for every student through our Pre-K for All and Universal Second Grade Literacy programs.

These and the other initiatives that are at the core of [Equity and Excellence for All](#) are laser-focused on three critical areas:

- ▶ academic excellence, ensuring every student is college- and career-ready and all educators have opportunities for professional development and collaboration;
- ▶ unprecedented student and community support; and
- ▶ innovation, allowing us to experiment with new programming and initiatives.

This year, and going forward, we aim to meet our students' diverse academic, social, and emotional needs—from their enriching year in pre-kindergarten to the first book they successfully read by themselves, to high school graduation, and finally, to their acceptance into college.

I encourage you to read more about **Equity and Excellence for All** [here](#). Please find an initiative that speaks to you and your school or district's needs and become well-versed in it. I hope you will share what you learn in the coming months with parents and each other, and think about ways to inspire families to collaborate with us on this bold and ambitious agenda. Together, we can ensure that every child receives an excellent education.

I look forward to sharing examples of our **Equity and Excellence for All** initiatives in upcoming issues of *Parent Leader Times*. I would also be interested in hearing how you are using this work to empower the students in your school community on their path to success.

## Town Halls

As I reflect upon my 51 years as an educator, one of my proudest achievements is receiving the award for 100 percent attendance at CPAC meetings. Showing up, and being truly present and ready to engage with the people we are serving, are the keys to successful teamwork. That is why I believe so strongly in 40 Minutes of parent engagement each week, student-led conferences, curriculum nights, and of course, our parent leader meetings.

With this in mind, I encourage you to use the Town Hall meetings for maximum effect by going there prepared with questions that will spark meaningful conversation. NYC schools have so many talented parent leaders. I encourage you to form your own subcommittees and share ideas and experiences with each other. After all, it is only when we listen to and trust each other that our students achieve excellence.

Finally, I welcome and encourage you to share what's on *your* mind with me.

# Parent Leader Spotlight

Each issue will spotlight parent leaders and their great work in the community. If you would like to nominate a parent leader to be featured here, please send the nomination to [CCECinfo@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CCECinfo@schools.nyc.gov).

## **David Goldsmith: CEC 13 President and Education Council Consortium Co-Chair**

David was first elected to CEC 13 in 2011, and previously served as a PTA president and SLT member. He is most proud of his work to operationalize CEC 13 and strengthen communication with stakeholders. His focus



this year is on ensuring every child in D13 has equal access to great schools.

## **Melanie Mendonca: CEC 23 President and Education Council Consortium Co-Chair**

Melanie was appointed to CEC 23 in 2013. She is a former PTA, SLT, and DLT member. Melanie is most proud of the collaboration between CEC 23, schools, and the superintendent's office. She is looking forward to partnering with fellow CEC presidents this year to share best practices that will benefit all districts.



## Did You Know?

**Presidents' Councils:** Fall PA/PTA elections should be held by **September 30**, so you should have a full council by **October 1**. Remind your members to follow up with their school to make sure the parent coordinator and principal have updated information on the new executive board, including contact information. Additionally, please send your Presidents' Council election results and the name of your CPAC representative to [Ray Pierre Louis](#).

**CCECs:** You have 60 days to fill a vacancy on your council after it is declared. Send vacancy applications to [Jose Vazquez](#).

**Presidents' Councils and CECs:** You are required to hold joint quarterly meetings with the district's Presidents' Council, CEC, and superintendent. For questions regarding quarterly meetings, contact [Paola de Kock](#).

## Join the online conversation:

 /nycschools or  /nycschools  
[schools.nyc.gov](http://schools.nyc.gov)

# Resources and Points of Contact

## Enrollment Questions

### Elementary School Enrollment

718-935-2009, [ESEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ESEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov)

### Middle School Enrollment

718-935-2398, [MSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:MSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov)

### High School Enrollment

718-935-2399, [HSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:HSEnrollment@schools.nyc.gov)



## New York State Education Department

To sign up for updates from NYSED:

1. Email [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.NYSED.GOV](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.NYSED.GOV)
2. The body must read: SUBSCRIBE PARENTS <Your Name>  
Example: SUBSCRIBE PARENTS Jane Smith
3. You will receive a confirmation email



## Equity and Excellence for All

Visit [schools.nyc.gov/EEforall](https://schools.nyc.gov/EEforall) to learn about Equity and Excellence for All.



## NYC Schools Account

Encourage parents to create an [NYC Schools Account](#), the best way to access key information about their child's progress in school. Also, remind parents or guardians with NYC Schools Accounts to validate their email address, if they have not already done so, by **September 30** in order to continue to view their child's data.

Click [here](#) for a parent flyer containing sign-on instructions and frequently asked questions.



**Achieve NYC:** *A Complete Guide to New York City Public Schools.*

The guide is available in nine languages—pick one up at your school and spread the word to families in your community.

