

Community Education Council District #24

Resolution No. 138

Whereas, COVID-19 and the resulting school closures have created incredible disruption to the lives and education of all NYC school children;

Whereas, The City of New York and The Department of Education has implemented a new grading policy, in response to the Coronavirus emergency, for elementary, middle school and high school students for the 2019-2020 academic year;

Whereas, the new grading policy outlines for Grades K-5: Schools will award grades using a binary “Meets Standards” and “Needs Improvement<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, the new grading policy outlines for Grades 6-8: Schools will award grades using three values: Meets Standards, Needs Improvement, and Course in Progress<sup>2</sup>;

Whereas, the new grading policies were not implemented with engagement with CEC #24;

Whereas, The New York State Education Department has suspended, in response to the Coronavirus emergency, all Regents examinations and statewide ELA and Math assessments for the 2019-2020 academic year;

Whereas, the outstanding work of District #24 students, teachers, administrators, and staff has already been recorded in Academic Year 2019-2020 up to the third marking period;

Whereas, the current utilization of students’ scores and grades as markers of academic achievement have been utilized for Middle School and High School applications;

Whereas, The NYC Department of Education has stated that Guidance (in accordance with screened and unscreened admissions) will be issued after further community engagement<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, there is no transparent plan, process or timeline for changes to admissions, or for engagement with communities or Education Councils, even though many of these changes will disproportionately impact District #24;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NYC Department of Education must fully acknowledge the hard work as reflected in the existing grades and scores of all of District #24 students.

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<sup>1</sup> Mayor de Blasio And Chancellor Carranza Announce Adjusted K-12 Citywide Grading Policy For 2019-20 School Year, May 1, 2020

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Education Council #24 supports a Do No Harm plan that would drop the lowest marking period at the students choosing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Education Council #24 expresses complete dissatisfaction with the lack of community engagement in the creation of the new grading policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Education Council #24 expresses complete dissatisfaction and apprehension of students admissions to previously screened middle schools and high schools without the use of grades or test scores.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is imperative for the DOE to return to the present grading system and the present system utilized by screened middle schools and high schools after the current COVID-19 emergency is concluded.