



Community Education Council For District One

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5 24 2017 20162017 RESO4: Mayoral Control of Schools

The District One Community Education Council's mission is to help District One ("D1") families and educators to exercise self-determination and local control over education policy and practices and to participate in decision-making at the level of family, school and community. To further this goal, we organize public meetings and hearings; provide a forum for parents to bring their concerns, and produce analyses and policy proposals which collectively serve to bridge the gap between the DOE, state and federal "rhetoric" and the reality in our district schools. In order to be effective, we believe that the unique needs of our community can only be met by local stake holders who are empowered by a governance structure that supports transparency and shared decision-making. Because of this, CEC 1 is opposed to the renewal of Mayoral Control.

In District One, we have seen the negative effects that centralization has on local communities. Since the inception of mayoral control and the removal of authority from local decision makers like the superintendents and elected bodies like the CEC and Presidents Council, many of our shared values have gone ignored to the detriment of some of our most high-risk students and families. The most recent shifts in administrative governance under Chancellor Fariña are still not enough to strengthen our communities and continue improving our schools.

CEC 1 believes that Mayoral Control should not be renewed and at the very least the following improvements are essential.

1. The Community School Districts should be restored to their lawful place in the governance structure, and district superintendents should have real power returned to them as intended by law.
2. The District Leadership Team should hold final authorization on policy proposals handed down by DoE central. It is expected that Superintendents, through their collaboration with the District Leadership Team, shall be able to negotiate on behalf of the district community to derive policy solutions that fit our needs.
3. Recommend that the powers of District CECs be expanded to allow for a meaningful vote regarding any significant changes in school utilization, including phase-outs, grade reconfigurations, re-sitings, closings/openings, and charter/public school co-locations. The PEP must provide an explanation as to why they are not following a decision by the CEC regarding any significant school changes.
4. Panel for Education Policy Selection
 - The borough presidents each appoint one member, and they must have a child in a New York City Public School
 - Recommend that the mayor not appoint the majority of members to the PEP and that the breakdown be: Five Borough President Appointees, Four Mayoral Appointees, 1 selected by the Citywide and Community District Education Councils (Citywide/CECs), 1 Public Advocate Appointee, 1 Comptroller Appointee.