



## Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council

Tweed Courthouse \*52 Chamber Street, New York 10007/Email: [InfoCPACNYC@gmail.com](mailto:InfoCPACNYC@gmail.com)

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February 9, 2023

Chancellor David Banks  
Department of Education  
Tweed Courthouse  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, New York 10007

### **RE: The Need to Re-Establish the High School Special Education Task Force**

Dear Chancellor Banks,

In the spring of 2018, the DOE created a High School Special Education Task Force following CPAC's approval of [a letter](#) addressed to Chancellor Carranza and Deputy Chancellor Rello-Anselmi, who headed the Division of Special Instruction. This task force brought together parent leadership (all five high school Presidents' Council presidents, the D-75 Presidents' Council president, and the chair of the Citywide Council on Special Education) with staff members of the Division of Special Instruction to discuss special education issues unique to high schools. The task force met regularly until the Covid-19 pandemic hit. While we raised awareness of key concerns regarding what is actually happening in many of our high schools, the work on the issues outlined in the original letter remains unfinished. These areas include, but are not limited to:

- The lack of services provided to high school students, as required in their IEPs
- The lack of qualified special education teachers, especially those able to provide the support necessary for students taking higher level courses.
- The lack of training of high school teachers on their responsibilities toward students with IEPs
- The need for collaboration of services between the student, IEP team, and high school teachers
- The role of SSD (Services for Students with Disabilities) coordinators

We welcome the creation of the Special Education Advisory Council and its goal of reimagining special education. **Because there are many issues unique to high schools, we hope to work with you to reconstitute the High School Special Education Task Force** independently of the Advisory Council to continue the mission to improve the special education experience and outcomes for our high school special education students.

With great appreciation,

The Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council

Approved by the membership at its February 9, 2023 meeting

Cc: Deputy Chancellor of Teaching and Learning Carolyne Quintana, Chief of Special Education Christina Foti