



## 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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March 9, 2023

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

### **RE: The Need for Summer Bridge Programs in Every NYC High School**

Dear Chancellor Banks,

As the end of the 2022-2023 school year nears and our attention is rightly directed at all the milestones to cross before June, we believe it is important to take a moment to focus on summer and the need for all our high schools to offer summer bridge programs for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders to give them the strongest start possible in high school. Many of our students still need support to assist them with learning loss stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in literacy and math. Most students would benefit from the ability to acclimate to their new school, build relationships with adults in the building, and better understand academic expectations at the high school level before formally matriculating in September. Students with IEPs would benefit by ensuring that mandated targeted supports and accommodations are in place before September classes even begin to ensure a smooth transition to high school for all students. We believe that high schools and their superintendents should design the programs to best meet the needs of incoming students and convey the high school's academic expectations and culture, but we hope the programs that are designed are supportive and encouraging, leaving incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders excited for school in the fall. Many schools and districts already offer these summer bridge programs, and this practice should become the norm. Every high school in New York City and the students they serve would benefit from summer bridge programs.

With great appreciation,

The Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council

Approved by the membership at its March 9, 2023 meeting

Cc: First Deputy Chancellor Daniel Weisberg, Deputy Chancellor of Teaching and Learning Carlyne Quintana