



MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

The Education Council Consortium and the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council urge the NYS Legislature to reject A1799/S2967 establishing the Citywide Leadership Team in New York City

September 27, 2023

The Education Council Consortium (ECC) consists of members from the Citywide and Community Educational Councils, members of the PAs/PTAs and School Leadership Teams, educators and advocates in New York City. The ECC's mission is to develop and support NYC public school parent leadership through education, networking and organizing. The Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council (CPAC) consists of presidents of District and borough PTA Presidents' Councils from all 32 Community School Districts and the five boroughs. The CPAC's mission is to advise the Chancellor on issues of importance to parents of New York City public school students.

New York City desperately needs a new form of School Governance. We have advocated for a real seat at the table of education policy making for parents in the public school system. We have advocated for ending Mayoral control and developing a truly democratic school governance system with parents as decision makers. The Central Leadership Team (CLT) is a circumlocutory attempt to subvert Mayoral Control without actually changing or removing it. **The CLT is not the solution to the deeply flawed school governance system.**

Our organizations deem the CLT an unnecessary additional layer of bureaucracy without substantially improving how parents participate in the decision making process. Currently the NYC school governance structure consists of School Leadership Teams, District Leadership Teams, Citywide & Community Education Councils, CPAC and the Board of Education (aka., PEP), the majority of whose members are NYC public school parents. Parent leaders are involved in various capacities and across different organizations throughout the DOE from the school level to the citywide level. Collectively these entities have the responsibilities proposed for the CLT in the bill.

We further question the efficacy of amending the NYC Administrative Code rather than amending the NYS Education Law. It is New York State Education Law that outlines the governance structure and authorizes Mayoral Control; amending anything other than the Education Law simply adds to an already bloated bureaucracy, and still leaves the ability to devalue parent voice in the hands of one person. How are we to ensure two systems created by the City's Administrative Code and NYS Education Law coordinate efficiently?

We urge the Legislature to **reject A1799/S2967** and instead work with parent leaders to develop an alternative to Mayoral control.

Contact: NeQuan C. McLean, President, at nequanmclean@cec16.org

Shirley Aubin, Co-Chair, CPAC, at infocpacnyc@gmail.com