

President Steve Stowe
First Vice President Jennifer Hu
Second Vice President/IEP Rep Elizabeth Chan
Recording Secretary Vito LaBella
Treasurer/ BBP Appointee Marie Brugueras



Council Members
Ghada Amin Mei Yun Lin
Jacqueline Barroso Maya Rozenblat- ELL Rep
Li Ping Jiang Kevin Zhao- BBP Appointee

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

Resolution 1 (SY21-22)

District 20 Community Education Council Call for the DOE to Engage Parents on G&T Changes

Co-sponsors: Ghada Amin, Jennifer Hu, Vito LaBella, Stephen Stowe

WHEREAS, New York State courts have ruled that all children have a right to "a basic and sound education."¹

WHEREAS, the Federal law Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA)² passed in 2015 extends and enhances legal support for education for accelerated learners through measures including Gifted and Talented (G&T) identification, data reporting requirements and use of Title I funding.³

WHEREAS, children may differ significantly in height, athletic skills and musical ability, they may also demonstrate profound differences in academic ability, knowledge retention, and learning progress.

WHEREAS, children with IEP's and English Language Learners deserve curricula that are appropriate and challenging to support their special needs, children with accelerated academic ability deserve curricula that are appropriate and challenging to support their special needs. Research has shown that accelerated learners who are not challenged academically, disengage from school, disrupt other student learners, and underperform academically.

WHEREAS, over the past 20-30 years G&T programs have been eliminated disproportionately from neighborhoods with high black and Hispanic student populations, thereby limiting their educational opportunities.

WHEREAS, Mayor de Blasio announced on January 11, 2021, forthcoming changes to the G&T program. The Mayor stated the city needs to engage with the community to decide the way forward and promising, "From this point through to the end of the summer, we'll go through that engagement process for a new vision, and we'll have that formula by September, and then we'll act on it in September"⁴.

WHEREAS, when the Panel for Education Policy (PEP) declined to renew the G&T testing contract on January 27, 2021, the Mayor reiterated his commitment to family engagement.

¹ Levittown UFSD v. Nyquist: (<https://aw.justia.com/cases/new-york/court-of-appeals/1982/57-n-y-2d-27-0.html>) and Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc. v State of New York (<https://law.justia.com/cases/new-york/court-of-appeals/2006/2006-08630.html>)

² <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-114s1177enr/pdf/BILLS-114s1177enr.pdf>

³ <http://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/Advocacy/ESSA%20Q%20%2B%20A.pdf>

⁴ <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/026-21/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-holds-media-availability>

WHEREAS, Chancellor Porter has repeatedly committed to family engagement on changes to G&T since she took office⁵.

WHEREAS, at a July 15, 2021 press conference, Mayor de Blasio said that "The Gifted and Talented program as we know it is gone, that a new, very different system, is being perfected and will be announced in September".⁶

WHEREAS, Mayor de Blasio recognized that family engagement was essential: "We've learned from times when we did things well, in terms of that engagement. We've learned from times we didn't do that engagement well enough."

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of families annually submit applications to the G&T Program on behalf of their children.

WHEREAS, to date, there has been no engagement of the primary stakeholders in the G&T system: parents and guardians. The program is being decided without their input as promised by the Mayor and by DOE.

WHEREAS, District 20 has a large number of New York City's District G&T programs and G&T students.

WHEREAS, the Mayor has failed to engage the District 20 Community in regards to changes to the G&T Program. There has been no engagement of District 20 Principals, Teachers, PTAs, SLTS of G&T schools, and no engagement with the CEC D20 on G&T policy.

WHEREAS, previous G&T recommendations to the Mayor and Chancellor by SDAG I and II, excluded educators from the NYC G&T community, parent leaders supportive of G&T, and favorable case studies and history demonstrating the benefits of G&T programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CEC D20 calls on the Mayor and DOE to fulfill their promises and start family engagement without delay and in good faith leave flexibility in their plans for Citywide and District G&T Programs that incorporate family input for any future program intended to meet the educational needs of accelerated NYC student learners

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CEC D20 urges Chancellor Porter and other DOE officials, to meet with the CEC D20 in an Open Public Meeting to provide a forum for District 20 G&T community input prior to any announced changes to District G&T Programs.

Visit us on the web www.cec20.org

415 89th Street • Room 410 • Brooklyn, NY 11209 • Tel 718-759-3921

Fax 718-759-3920 • E-mail: CEC20@schools.nyc.gov