



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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<i>Council Members:</i>				
Norman Cohn	Todd Friedman		Danielle Giunta	
Alan Ong	Dilip Nath		Community Superintendent	
David Wong	Logan Grodsky		District 26	

[Website: www.CDEC26.org](http://www.CDEC26.org)

APPROVED RESOLUTION AGAINST REVISED BLENDED LEARNING OPT-IN PERIOD NOVEMBER 12, 2020

The Community Education Council District 26 (CEC 26) is comprised of parents who have been elected or appointed to serve as stakeholders of the district, representing over 15,000 public school students. The following resolution offers CEC 26's position regarding the October 26, 2020 policy change concerning the blended learning opt-in period:

WHEREAS, when the Department of Education released its plans for the 2020–2021 school year parents were given the option to elect 100 percent remote learning or default into a blended learning plan; and

WHEREAS, parents were informed in July and August 2020 that they would have opportunities at the close of each marking period—roughly in November 2020, January 2021, and March 2021—to opt into blended learning if they had previously selected 100 percent remote learning; and

WHEREAS, many families made major financial decisions about childcare, work commitments, and living arrangements in August/September with the understanding that they could make alternate plans in November 2020, January 2021, or March 2021 as they assessed the pandemic's impact in New York City and shift those arrangements, many of which are detrimental to the overall well-being of our students, should they feel at that point that a return to blended learning were safe and feasible for their families; and

WHEREAS, neither the blended learning model nor the all-remote learning model allows parents and guardians to work full-time, creating an impossible situation for many families;

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2020 Chancellor Carranza and Mayor De Blasio announced that there would only be one opt-in period to blended learning, November 2–15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this is yet another example of the mayor and chancellor providing inconsistent information, unclear plans, and changing timelines regarding reopening and blended learning as well as their continued exclusion of school community stakeholders when making such decisions, which shows distrust with all families and school partners; and

WHEREAS, flu season in the Northeast typically begins in December and lasts through April; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases are climbing nationwide, including in many neighboring states, and health experts are concerned that the virus will spread widely throughout the winter months when people spend more time indoors; and

WHEREAS, despite warnings from New York State and the CDC it is expected that many New Yorkers, including students participating in both 100 percent remote and blended learning, will travel out of state for the Thanksgiving holiday, November 25–November 29 and gather indoors for lengthy periods of time with non-household members whether for meals and/or holiday shopping; and

WHEREAS, students who have been fully remote who opt back in to blended learning will begin in-person learning sometime between November 30 and December 7, a period which is less than 14 days from the Thanksgiving holiday; and

WHEREAS, parents will be forced to choose between their child forgoing an entire year of in-person instruction or returning just in time for flu season and the start of inclement weather, which will limit opportunities for time outdoors during the school day; and

WHEREAS, parents will still be able to opt their children into fully remote learning at any time during the year, which could lead to the same reprogramming challenges the DOE is seeking to avoid with the change to the blended learning opt in policy; and

WHEREAS, far too many students continue to struggle with the remote portion of their schooling whether in a blended or fully remote cohort due to the absence of a working device or connectivity, mass non-compliance with IEPs, or their school's challenges in delivering at-home lessons with limited staffing capabilities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Education Council District 26 calls upon the Mayor and the Chancellor to:

1. Immediately reinstate the previously promised quarterly windows for enrollment in blended learning.
2. Continue to allow students to opt into fully remote learning at any point.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we call upon Mayor De Blasio and Chancellor Carranza to return to the original commitment made to our families.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon New York City Council, New York State Legislators and Governor Cuomo to support our families in pursuit of reinstating the original commitment made to our families.

This Resolution was approved at November 12, 2020 Calendar Meeting by a unanimous vote of members present including: Adriana Aviles, Dilip Nath, John Gavros, Alan Ong, Cassandra Louie, Todd Friedman, David Wong, Norman Cohn and Karen Rose Scutt.