



# Community District Education Council 26

## New York City Department of Education

Address: 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364 Phone: (718) 631-6927 Fax: (718) 631-1347 E-mail: CEC26@schools.nyc.gov

<b>Albert Suhu</b> (interim) <i>President of the Council</i>	<b>Vacant</b> <i>First Vice-President</i>	<b>Cassandra Louie</b> <i>Second Vice President</i>	<b>Vacant</b> <i>Recording Secretary</i>	<b>Dennis Chan</b> <i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Council Members:</i> <b>Adriana Aviles</b> <b>Norman Cohn</b> <b>Jennifer Catherall</b>	<b>Todd Friedman</b> <b>Sulinda Hong</b> <b>Dilip Nath</b>	<i>Student Member:</i> <b>Mollie Grodsky</b>	<i>District 26 Community Superintendent:</i> <b>Danielle Giunta</b>	

### Resolution Urging Permanent Retention of Geographic Priorities for High Schools Located in District 26 (and elsewhere in Queens County) October 13, 2022

**WHEREAS**, on December 18, 2020, former Mayor de Blasio and former Chancellor Carranza announced the elimination of district priorities for high school admissions for the school year 2021-22 and planned for the elimination of borough and zone priorities for the school year 2022-23<sup>i</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Queens High School Presidents’ Council sent a letter to former Chancellor Porter on June 14, 2021, opposing the removal of geographic priorities for Queens high schools on the grounds that Queens high schools are severely overcrowded and public transportation options throughout the borough are very limited; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Education Council (CEC) 26 passed a resolution on October 21, 2021, opposing the removal of geographic priorities for Queens high schools, as those located in District 26 are the most overcrowded in Queens and have insufficient capacity to serve even the residents who live near their neighborhood high schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Assemblyman Edward Braunstein (D-Bayside) and Senator John Liu (D-Bayside) sent a joint letter on December 3, 2021, to Chancellor Porter urging the suspension of the plan to eliminate geographic priorities in the high school admissions process<sup>ii</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education reconsidered the prior administration’s policy and issued a press release on February 16, 2022, stating: “Borough and zone priorities will remain in place for the fall 2022 admissions cycle”<sup>iii</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Hochul signed Bill S9460/A10498 “Class Size Reduction” on September 8, 2022, capping high school class sizes at 25, thereby increasing the difficulty level for Queens residents to attend Queens high schools<sup>iv</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2021-22 Blue Book, the three largest high schools in District 26 (enrollment over 3000) were severely overcrowded, with very high utilization rates:

- Francis Lewis, 187%
- Benjamin N. Cardozo, 127%
- Bayside, 130%; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2021-22 Blue Book, large high schools in neighboring districts were also severely overcrowded:

- District 28 - Forest Hills, 163%
- District 25 - John Bowne, 127%; and

**WHEREAS**, geographic priorities are not intended to exclude students from underserved communities, and once capacity in these high schools is sufficient to enroll nearby residents, excess capacity can be used for students from other areas; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, Community Education Council 26 urges the Chancellor to permanently retain geographic priorities for high schools with utilization rates that exceed 100% while complying with the class size target specified in the S9460/A10498 amendments to Education Law Section 211-D “Contract for excellence”.

*Community Education Council District 26 approved this resolution on August 11, 2022, at the monthly meeting by unanimous vote. Members Present: Yes: Norman Cohn, Albert Suhu, Dennis Chan, Sulinda Hong, Jennifer Catherall, Todd Friedman, and Cassandra Louie*

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/874-20/mayor-de-blasio-chancellor-carranza-2021-22-school-year-admissions-process>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Edward-C-Braunstein/story/100023>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/news/announcements/contentdetails/2022/02/16/chancellor-banks-announces-extension-for-high-school-application>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/john-c-liu/liu-hails-signing-bill-finally-reduce-class-sizes-nyc-public>