



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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Resolution to Prohibit In-Person Only Community and Citywide Education Council (CCEC) Candidate Forums

WHEREAS, the New York City Public Schools' (NYCPS) Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) manages the CCEC elections pursuant to Chancellor's Regulations Volume D; and

WHEREAS, candidate forums were scheduled to be held March 3rd to April 24th, 2025ⁱ; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor's Regulation D-140 states, "The Presidents' Council, together with FACE, shall determine the date, time and format for each Candidate Forum"ⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, all previous CCEC candidate forums in the election cycles for the 2021 and 2023 CCEC terms were held in a virtual format; and

WHEREAS, FACE inexplicably agreed to permit one of the Presidents' Councils to hold an in-person-only candidate forum on March 18, 2025, while all others (31 CECs and 4 citywide councils) remained fully virtualⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, only 8 candidates participated in the in-person-only District 26 candidate forum, compared to 12–30 candidates in the other all-virtual candidate forums across Queens districts^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, the participation rate of the in-person-only District 26 candidate forum was 29%, compared to the average rate of 46% for the other CECs in Queens that held virtual forums (See Exhibit 1)^v; and

WHEREAS, the audience for the in-person-only District 26 candidate forum was sparse, consisting of a few PTA Presidents, FACE representatives, the District 26 Superintendent, and a handful of people from the parent community; and

WHEREAS, in past years all parties have observed a significant increase in engagement when public meetings were held remotely and a noticeable decrease after the return to in-person only meetings; and

WHEREAS, data shows that virtual meetings can expand the audience reach by as much as 30%^{vi}; and

WHEREAS, a survey of event attendees indicated 77% preferred virtual events because of the ease of attendance^{vii}; and

WHEREAS, being responsive to families is a critical goal of the NYCPS, and parents have shown they are much more likely to participate virtually compared to in-person due to the accessibility of remote meetings; and

WHEREAS, the NYCPS 'The Morning Bell' Meet the 2025 Community and Citywide Education Council Candidates! informational regarding the education council elections denotes that candidates can participate in the virtual candidate forum for the council(s) that the candidate is running for, and does not mention an in-person candidate forum; and

WHEREAS, the video and audio quality of the District 26 recording was noticeably substandard compared to the professional production quality of the recordings provided by Learning Times for the other districts^{viii}; and

WHEREAS, the effortlessness with which remote meetings can be recorded and expeditiously disseminated throughout the community has increased the participation and engagement where employment and other responsibilities might have prevented a candidate's in-person involvement; and

WHEREAS, CEC 26 members have received numerous complaints from new candidates indicating that work and childcare responsibilities prevented them from attending the forum in person, and a virtual format would have enabled their participation; and

WHEREAS, District 26 candidates noted challenges attending the in-person forum due to scheduling conflicts, and one had to leave early due to other commitments^{ix}; and

WHEREAS, the mission of FACE is "building the capacity of all stakeholders to develop meaningful partnerships between families and schools"^x; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, CEC 26 demands that FACE eliminate exclusionary election practices by ensuring all future CCEC candidate forums are held in a fully virtual meeting format, thereby maximizing accessibility, participation, and equity for all candidates and attendees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CEC 26 requests the Panel for Education Policy to revise Chancellor's Regulations Volume D to eliminate the option to hold candidate forums at a physical location.

During the CEC 26 meeting held on April 10, 2025, the resolution was reviewed and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

Exhibit 1 - Candidates Participation in the Queens CEC Candidate Forums as of April 10, 2025

District	Total # Applicants	# Attending Forums	Participation Rate
24	47	21	45%
25	31	12	39%
26	28	8	29%
27	44	14	32%
28	36	20	56%
29	32	14	44%
30	47	30	64%

ⁱ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/education-councils/elections/candidate-forums>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/d-140-process-for-the-nomination-and-selection-of-members-of-the-community-education-councils-including-filling-vacancies.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/education-councils/elections/candidate-forums>

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Ibid.

^{vi} https://electroiq.com/stats/virtual-events-statistics/#google_vignette

^{vii} Ibid.

^{viii} <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/education-councils/elections/candidate-forums>

^{ix} Ibid.

^x <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/family-and-community-empowerment-face>