



**Department of
Education**

Chancellor Richard A. Carranza

February 19, 2020

Dear District 28 Community Members,

District 28 is a 2019-20 recipient of an NYC DOE School Diversity Grant, a special pool of resources for our District to work with in the coming year. The purpose of these resources is to help our District community come together to develop recommendations for ways to better fulfill the promise of public school for more of our families. We are all committed to the promise of a high-quality, joyful learning journey that prepares each of our students for success throughout the rest of their lives.

This grant will allow our District to begin a planning process in the coming weeks. We are writing to you today with important information and updates, and information on how you can get involved—because this process depends on the voices of our district. Your participation is necessary to make this a success!

What is the District 28 Diversity Plan Process?

The D28 Diversity Plan process brings community members who live, work, and go to school in District 28 together to create recommendations for how to promote school diversity and set all our students on a path to even greater academic success, with a focus on middle schools. Diversity has a broad definition, so recommendations can cover solutions including school resources, parent empowerment, student voice, and admissions policies. Recommendations will be created through public community engagement, which will include district-wide workshops, school-based meetings, and more.

At the conclusion of the process, a working group of members of the District 28 community will issue recommendations. The recommendations will reflect the input and priorities of D28 community members as discussed throughout the public community engagement process. All recommendations will be anchored in a community-developed strategy, accompanied by strong supports from district and DOE leadership, and will be shared widely with District community members. This is not a “top-down” process for change; this process relies on District 28 families to make their voices and positions heard. There are no pre-determined outcomes—recommendations will grow exclusively from the community empowerment process detailed below for a planned release in December 2020.

How does it work, and how can you get involved?

This process’s success is dependent on hearing viewpoints from every corner of the District, and mutual trust, transparency and clarity. We also know that our D28 families are busy! We hope you will participate in one of the multiple opportunities we are creating:

Attend a meeting at your local District 28 elementary or middle school before the first official public workshop.

- Beginning in March, we will hold a meeting at every elementary and middle school to provide information about the process and discuss each school community's key priorities ahead of the first Public Workshop.
- Please visit D28DiversityPlan.com to find the date of these meetings so you can attend the one that works best for you.

Attend one of 6 public workshops.

- The first workshop will be in May, following the school-based meetings. Please visit D28DiversityPlan.com, where details on date and location will be shared.
- These workshops will synthesize data and facilitate community conversations that will help shape the plan recommendations.
- We will extend the workshops to ensure there is enough time to get community feedback.

Learn more about your district.

- Throughout the process, we will listen, gather feedback and share information.
- Aided by effective technology, we will present back to the District 28 community what we are hearing, and present findings from data and research on the District 28 middle schools.

Learn about the D28 working group.

- A working group is being developed, composed of members that live and work in the district. The working group will develop the recommendations based on the feedback from the community. We are working with community leaders to expand the group and bring in additional members.
- WXY Studio, a consultant brought on by the NYC DOE, will help facilitate the process by providing data analysis.
- WXY will act as an unaffiliated facilitator that will provide accessible data analysis and consistently share updates through various methods.
- Read a Letter from the working group to the community [here](#) or at D28DiversityPlan.com.
- Working group membership is posted on D28DiversityPlan.com.

Stay up to date online.

- Visit D28diversityplan.com to join the mailing list and receive important updates.
- For follow up questions or more information, please visit D28diversityplan.com or email info@d28diversityplan.com.



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Over the past weeks, we have introduced the D28 Diversity Plan Process to the community via the Community Education Council, the District 28 Leadership Team, District 28 principals, District 28 President's Council, and Queens elected officials. In those conversations, we've heard a desire to enable this process to include more voices and ensure that there are ample opportunities for engagement. For that reason, we have extended the project timeline and created a school-by-school process to hear from more communities. We are committed to hearing from as many parents, students, educators and other community members as possible, and we are working to expand the group and bring in additional members.

We welcome your continued feedback, guidance and questions. We look forward to helping the community share their voices about how to better propel all of District 28's students to success.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Wallack'.

Josh Wallack, Deputy Chancellor, Division of Early Childhood Education and Student Enrollment

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andre Spencer'.

Andre Spencer, Executive Superintendent, Queens South