

# District 28 CEC Presentation



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**Superintendent:** Dr. Eric L. Blake  
**Date:** Thursday, October 9, 2025

# District 28 Mission and Vision

## Mission:

In Community School District 28 we focus on equity as a lever for achievement for every single scholar. We are a district of excellence. We commit to every school maintaining high academic standards and working closely with families so that all scholars are learning at high levels. Beginning with school leaders, teachers, students and community partners, we also commit to being a district of learners ensuring that we promote critical thinking rooted in core content conceptual understanding through creative problem solving, technology innovation, social emotional learning and community advocacy.

## Vision:

In Community School District 28 we celebrate our differences because we understand that woven into those differences is the knowledge that they offer us unlimited possibility to learn and expand our knowledge of and commitment to all humanity. We are beautifully diverse, varied; coming from countless racial, ethnic, language, and belief backgrounds. We commit to striving for inestimable contribution to the lives of our scholars.

# Safety

# D28 Superintendent Priorities

01

Improve outcomes in Mathematics by implementing a common research-based curriculum and introducing or scaling, where appropriate, Regents level courses for scholars

02

Improve literacy skills by implementing research-based, Science of Reading (SOR) HMH curriculum in all K-8 schools.

03

Work to substantially improve daily attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism.

04

Continue to increase Parent and Family Engagement and Community Partnerships.

# NYCPS Chancellors' State of Our Schools – NYC Public Schools – 9/29/25

*The Chancellor shared a message of hope and responsibility for the new school year.*

## Keeping Students Safe & Well

- Launched anti-bullying and anti-vaping efforts in over 1,600 schools.
- Expanded school-based mental health clinics and staff mindfulness training.
- Reduced chronic absenteeism and improved school safety planning.

## Supporting Great Teaching

- Brought more coaching to schools through NYC Reads and NYC Solves.
- Trained more educators in literacy and autism support.
- Hired 6,300 new teachers and enhanced training for paraprofessionals.

## Partnering with Families & Communities

- Trained over 6,700 Family Ambassadors and registered 2,300+ Family Connectors.
- Helped more families use the NYC Schools Account and engage in leadership roles.
- Added more seats in early childhood and special education programs.

# D28 Superintendent Team Support:

## *- Partnering with Schools for Student Success*

Our district team has been deployed to directly support schools, based on in-depth data review and school request for support. This targeted approach ensures that resources are aligned with each school's unique needs, allowing us to build capacity where it's needed most and accelerate student outcomes.

# District 28: Highlights

## Learning Technology Grant with New Visions – 2nd Year Awarded

- to advance the literacy skills via the utilization of technology. This initiative empowers students to engage with digital tools that enhance reading, writing, and critical thinking, preparing them for success in a tech-driven world.

## RESO - A Grant(s):

Distributed to schools for Capital and Technology Improvements

## Arts & Literacy Grant

Congrats to Q190 for receiving an Arts and Literacy grant from The Morgan Library

## Principal Arts Fellows Program

 Congratulations to Principals Elkarany (2Q358), Lau (Q287), and Dr. Remy (Q354)

As Fellows, they will participate in professional learning communities focused on building lasting arts partnerships and securing grants.

## MBK / MSK 100K from Councilwomen Adams Office

15 Elementary and Middle Schools with a focus on Mentoring and exposure to lift our students' attendance and academic success

# Spring Into Inclusion

Autism now represents 13% of student classifications in District 28—the third highest in the district.

District 28 has partnered with the Division of Inclusive and Accessible Learning (DIAL).

Together, they've launched Spring Into Inclusion, a three-day, in-person professional learning series.

The series supports educators, building leaders, and paraprofessionals.

Focus areas include:

- 1) Creating inclusive classroom environments
- 2) Enhancing communication strategies
- 3) Implementing intensive behavior supports

# Featured School:

28Q160 – The Walter Francis School

- Dr. Tiffany Hicks

## Highlights:

- 14 New Classrooms for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and all ICT classes
- Newly Renovated Schoolyard featuring a track, basketball court, and a dedicated Pre-K area
- Improved Accessibility with 2 new elevators and District 28's first bilingual Special Education class

**OUR**  
*Grand Opening*

**P.S. 160'S  
NEW ADDITION**

**Instructional Spaces**  
We have 14 new classrooms which includes new spaces for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and all of our ICT classes.

We have new spaces for our specialty classes which include: Art, STEM, Theater, & a room for all residencies.

**New School Yard**  
Our students now have a beautiful school yard that is fully equipped with a basketball court, track, Pre-K play area, and open space to run and play.

**Accessibility**  
Our school is now fully equipped with two elevators and we are home to District 28's first Bilingual Special Education (BSE) program with a Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> grade Bridge class.

WALTER FRANCIS BISH

# D28 Attendance Update: Ahead of Citywide Average!!!!

**In September 2025, overall attendance across NYC public schools dropped slightly compared to last year:**

- **Citywide:** 90.9% (down from 91.8% in Sept 2024)
- **District 28:** 93.1% (down slightly from 92.6% last year)

**While attendance is down across the city, District 28 is doing better than the city average, showing strong engagement from our students and families, through a districtwide initiative to prioritize attendance teams and implement best practices, through PLO to all stakeholders.**

## **Districtwide Training for:**

- **Parent Coordinators**
- **Attendance Points in schools**
- **School specific PTA / Teacher PD's**

**Thank you to our families and schools for staying connected and committed — your efforts are making a difference!**

## D28 Upcoming Events:

**Character Day Parades** - celebrate reading and creativity by encouraging students to dress up as their favorite book characters, promoting literacy in a fun and engaging way.

They create an inclusive and respectful environment where all students can participate.

### **D28 MBK/MSK Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration-**

In-person event hosted by Principal Louissant at IS 008, Celebrating with 15 participating schools and their communities with food and cultural presentations.

# Congratulations

Congratulations to Eli and Evan Cruz on being selected as Youth Ambassadors for District 28 in the NYC Youth Ambassador Leadership Program. Special thanks to Vajah Ramjattan, Director of the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, for recognizing their leadership. Their dedication to inclusion and civic engagement is a proud reflection of PS 139 and the D28 community.

