

September 26, 2024

Dear Families,

First and foremost, I want to thank you for entrusting your children to New York City Public Schools. I am writing to share the news that after nearly 40 years serving the children and families of this city, I have made the decision to retire at the end of this calendar year.

From my earliest days as a school safety agent through my time as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, founder of the Eagle Academy network, and finally, as Chancellor, I have worked relentlessly to give our city's children the educational experiences they deserve—from the fundamentals of learning to read to groundbreaking opportunities for career-connected learning.

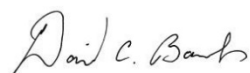
I'm a product of the New York City Public Schools myself, and I believe deeply in the transformative impact of an excellent public education. Although I am retiring, I know that the critical work we have started will continue and that its impact will be felt for years to come.

I entered this role nearly three years ago guided by four pillars: to reimagine the student experience; to scale, sustain, and restore what works; to prioritize wellness and its links to student success; and to engage families and communities as true partners. I am proud to say that we have made significant progress in all these areas. We launched NYC Reads and NYC Solves, built innovative and immersive college and career pathways, created the Division of Inclusive and Accessible Learning, welcomed over 45,000 of our newest New Yorkers, expanded student mental health supports, invested \$1.5 billion in our school communities, and so much more. Through it all, we kept students, families, and communities at the center.

I want to congratulate Deputy Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos, who will be taking the helm as Chancellor beginning in January. Melissa is a New York City Public Schools parent, a lifelong New Yorker, and most importantly, a champion for our students and school communities. I am fully confident that Melissa is the right person for the job, and I believe that under her leadership, the best is yet to come for New York City Public Schools.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to build bright starts and bold futures for our city's children. I have felt blessed every day to work with the most incredible team—140,000 strong—on behalf of the most incredible kids and families. I will remain your staunch advocate and supporter, and I thank you—our families, parent leaders, and community members—for your partnership and dedication.

Soaring high,



David C. Banks