

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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December 18, 2025  
Start: 10:17 a.m.  
Recess: 10:24 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING  
ROOM 2

B E F O R E: Rita C. Joseph, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric Dinowitz  
Jennifer Gutiérrez  
Linda Lee  
Pierina Ana Sanchez  
Lynn C. Schulman  
Althea V. Stevens

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Selvena N. Brooks-Powers

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a  
3 microphone test for the Committee vote on Education  
4 in Hearing Room 2 recorded by Taisha Sherman.  
5 Today's date is 12-18-2025.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
7 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the  
8 Committee on Education.

9 At this time, can everybody please  
10 silence your cell phones.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: [GAVEL] Good morning,  
13 and welcome everyone. I'm Council Member Rita Joseph,  
14 Chair of the Committee on Education. First, I would  
15 like to acknowledge my Colleagues who are present  
16 here, Council Member Dinowitz, Council Member  
17 Gutiérrez, Council Member Lee, Council Member  
18 Sanchez, Council Member Schulman, and Council Member  
19 Stevens. Thank you for being here.

20 Today, the Committee is voting on five  
21 pieces of legislation. Proposed Intro. 987-A,  
22 sponsored by me, requiring the DOE and an agency  
23 designated by the mayor to establish a pilot program  
24 to develop and distribute educational materials to  
25 students and staff regarding the reduction of surplus

food in public schools, the benefit of food waste diversion and the role of students and staff in diverting organic matters from landfills. DOE serves roughly 880,000 meals a day to students across the nation's largest school system. Inspired by the pilot program in Frederick County, Maryland, this program will teach students and staff about recycling, composting, and reducing food waste.

Proposed Intro. 1359, sponsored by me, require DOE to report annually on manifestation determination reviews conducted for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are suspended at disproportionately higher rates compared to their peers without disabilities, and often for behavior directly related to their disabilities. A manifestation determination review is a meeting to decide whether a student's misbehavior was caused by the disability or happened because the school did not provide the support the student needed. This bill will require DOE to issue a detailed report outlining, among other things, the number of students referred for a manifestation determination review and the number of reviews conducted each school year. This report will also allow us to ensure that

manifestation determination reviews are occurring across the city equitably and in compliance with education law.

Intro. 1360, sponsored by me, will require NYPD to develop material regarding their youth programs and provide them to DOE who would be asked with distributing materials to schools and students in New York City system on request. NYPD would also require to post materials on its website and to distribute materials to Council Members on request. Currently, the NYPD offer a variety of youth-related initiatives, but these initiatives are not always well-advertised.

Reso. 842, also sponsored by me, to recognize the month of March annually as Music in Our Schools Month in New York City. This will serve as a reminder of the importance of music education, of the needs to ensure all students have access to music in their schools and as an opportunity for music educators to showcase their programs in their schools and broader community.

Finally, Proposed Intro. 142-A, sponsored by Majority Whip Brooks-Powers, to amend the Administrative Code of City of New York in relation

to requiring DOE to issue a biannual report regarding students' access to internet, electronic devices, and students' use of virtual learning. I now invite Majority Whip Brooks-Powers to provide remarks on her legislation.

MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you so much, Chair Joseph, and thank you to the Members of the Committee on Education.

I want to begin by, of course, thanking our amazing Chair Joseph for her partnership and leadership on this issue. From the start, she understood that Intro. 142 is not just about collecting information, it is about ensuring our education system reflects the realities families are facing today. Access to reliable internet and functional devices is no longer optional. It is foundational to a student's ability to learn, participate, and succeed. Yet, too many of our students, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color, still lack consistent access at home. We saw this clearly during the pandemic. Citywide, more than one in 10 students lack adequate internet access. In communities like the Rockaways, that number was closer to one in three. And even as

we return to in-person learning, those gaps have not disappeared. Snow days, emergency closures, and hybrid instruction are now a permanent part of our education landscape. Intro. 142 responds to this reality by requiring the Department of Education to issue a biannual report that does more than just measure the problem. It captures data on internet access, device availability, and broken or non-functional equipment. It incorporates feedback from parents and guardians, and critically, it requires the Department of Education to make concrete recommendations to close these gaps. This bill ensures that data leads to action. It gives us the tools to target investments, improve accountability, and make informed decisions so that no student falls behind simply because of where they live or what their family can afford.

I want to, again, thank this Committee for their support and the partnership and collaboration of the Chair, and I urge my Colleagues in advance to move forward on Intro. 142 as a meaningful step toward educational equity across our city. Thank you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you, Majority  
3 Whip Brooks-Powers.

4 Finally, I'd like to thank my own Staff,  
5 Juvanie Piquant, Joel Desouve; Education Committee  
6 Staff, Legislative Counsel Alejandro Carvajal; Senior  
7 Policy Analysts, Chloë Rivera, Katie Salina; and  
8 Finance Analysts, Andrew Lane-Lawless, and Grace  
9 Amato.

10 Now I'll turn to the Clerk to call the  
11 roll.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning. Thank you,  
13 Chair Joseph. This is the Committee on Education roll  
14 call vote on all items that the Chair has already  
15 articulated.

16 We'll start with you, Chair Joseph.

17 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. And now  
19 Council Members Louis. Gennaro. Dinowitz.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

22 Gutiérrez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

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2 Council Member Hanif. Hanks. Krishnan.  
3 Lee.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
6 Member Narcisse. Sanchez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.  
9 Schulman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all and  
11 congrats to everyone.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

13 And finally, Council Member Stevens.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

16 Chair Joseph, by a vote of seven in the  
17 affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero  
18 abstentions, all items have been adopted.

19 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Thank you. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date December 29, 2025