



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 1550

By The Public Advocate (Mr. Williams) and Council Members Torres, Lander, Richards, Cornegy and Kallos

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the establishment of a school diversity advisory group

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Title 21-A of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new chapter 28 to read as follows:

Chapter 28. School Diversity Advisory Group

§ 21-999 School diversity advisory group. a. There shall be a school diversity advisory group to assist the department in achieving diverse, integrated schools that offer academic and social benefits for all students. Such advisory group shall review current department policies and engage parents, teachers, students, advocates, other community leaders and local and national experts on school diversity to formulate recommendations to the department in its efforts to achieve integration and equity for city of New York public school students.

b. The school diversity advisory group shall consist of at least 23 members as follows:

1. The mayor or the mayor's designee;

2. The speaker of the council or the speaker's designee;

3. Sixteen members appointed by the mayor of which four shall be teachers or principals employed by the department, two shall be current students, five shall be experts in the field of culturally responsive curriculum and pedagogy, restorative justice school discipline policies, teacher education and training, integration or education policy, and five shall be parents of a child attending a public school within the city school district; and

4. Five members appointed by the speaker of the council, chosen from individuals representing community based organizations.

c. The parental appointees pursuant to paragraph 1 of subdivision b of this section shall be residents of the city, shall be from different boroughs and one shall be a parent of a child in an elementary school, one shall be a parent of a child in a middle school and one shall be a parent of a child in high school.

d. Membership on the advisory group shall not constitute the holding of a public office, and members of the advisory group shall not be required to take or file oaths of office before serving on the advisory group. Each member of the advisory group shall serve without compensation for a term of 12 months, except that each member shall be allowed actual and necessary expenses to be audited in the same manner as other city charges.

e. All members shall be appointed within 90 days after the effective date of this local law. Each member can be re-appointed to serve successive terms. No member shall be removed except for cause by the appointing authority. In the event of a vacancy during the term of an appointed member, a successor shall be selected in the same manner as the original appointment. The members shall designate a chair from amongst themselves.

f. The mayor may designate one or more agencies to provide staffing and other administrative support to the advisory group.

g. The advisory group shall be required to meet no less than quarterly and shall also be required to hold five public hearings annually to solicit public comment on the integration of New York city public schools.

h. No later than December 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the advisory group shall prepare a report on findings, annual review of departmental integration efforts and recommendations to the department. The recommendations shall address areas including, but not limited to:

1. Setting racial and socio-economic diversity goals and how the department can best track and publish metrics in achieving such goals;

2. How the department can support schools in diversifying their populations;

3. Professional development of departmental employees;

4. How the department can change its funding formulas for schools to better address inequitable opportunities in schools for programs, staff and facilities;

5. Accessibility and integration of students with disabilities;

6. Pedagogy and curriculum;

7. School climate;

8. Restorative justice and practices;

9. Parent and teacher empowerment; and

10. Any other areas the advisory group deems necessary.

i. The report required pursuant to subdivision h of this section shall be submitted to the mayor and the speaker of the council and posted on the department's reports section of its website. The department shall to notify students, parents, teachers and administrators each time such report is posted to the department's website. The department is required to maintain on its reports section of its website all reports submitted by the advisory group.

j. The department shall be required to add an addendum for reports required in year 2021 and annually thereafter that shall include information on the implementation of such recommendations. The department shall be required to include a detailed explanation for recommendations that the department chooses not to implement. For those recommendations the department chooses to enact, the department in its addendum shall be required to include an implementation timeframe for each recommendation. If a target date will not be met, the department shall include an explanation and identify remedial steps the department will take to achieve the implementation timeframe in subsequent years.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

MMB
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