

3. The Commission will submit its completed work (document) to the legislature for approval. When approved by the legislature, this document will become a governing document of the New York City School System.

We, the undersigned, pledge to mobilize our communities to support a redesigned public education system based on every child's human right to education, a system that empowers parents, students, teachers, school administrators, and members of the community as full partners in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of this redesigned system.

We also recognize that the challenges we face in public education are inextricably connected to other critical and ongoing struggles to end racial and economic inequality in our city.

**The 3R's Coalition is working to fulfill this pledge.
To join the 3R's Working Group or for more
information contact**

**Black New Yorkers for Educational Excellence, 212-252-2997
Human Rights Project of the Urban Justice Center, 646-602-5628
Independent Commission on Public Education, 718-499-3756
National Economic and Social Rights Initiative, Liz@nesri.org
NY Coalition for Neighborhood School Control, jweusi@aol.com
People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, NY Region, 718- 918-2716**

**TO SEE A LIST OF GROUPS ENDORSING THIS PLEDGE
GO TO
3Rs Coalition of New York City
<http://3rs-coalition-nyc.wetpaint.com/>**



**RECLAIM OUR SCHOOLS
REDESIGN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM
RESTORE DEMOCRACY**

PLEDGE TO ACTION

We, the endorsers of this pledge,

AFFIRM that public education has the potential to be the cornerstone of true democracy;

RECOGNIZE that the mayoral control “reform” -- like previous efforts to change the system’s governance without facing its deep systemic problems – still leaves the city with schools that fail to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of our students;

REGRET that mayoral control has failed to uphold fundamental principles of democracy, student-centered pedagogy, and respect for diversity and our local communities;

CALL upon the New York State Legislature to pass a bill to **IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISH A FULLY-FUNDED COMMISSION.**

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1. THE COMMISSION'S TASK WILL BE TO:

ASSESS the strengths and weaknesses of the current educational system;

CREATE a strategic plan and develop a mission, goals and policies to redesign the system and its governance structure to guarantee every child's human right to an education;

INCLUDE the public in a democratic process to reach consensus about a redesigned education system that the legislature enacts into law.

The undersigned want a system that will:

SERVE, be responsive to, and be informed by all of its students, particularly the neglected majority: low-income and students of color, immigrants, and students with special needs;

END the inequities in the current segregated and unequal system that favors those with race or class privilege and distribute resources according to need and to those historically under-resourced by the impact of structural, racial and economic discrimination;

ENCOURAGE curricula and pedagogies that promote creative and challenging opportunities to learn, that emphasize problem solving and critical thinking, and that reflect and build upon the histories, experiences, interests, languages, special needs, and capabilities of all our students;

CREATE a system of assessment that de-emphasizes high stakes testing, requires multiple forms of accountability including work sampling and performance-based assessment, enhances quality education, and is an outgrowth of student-centered curriculum and instruction;

RECOGNIZE parents and family as our children's first educators and public advocates, and establish structures to insure parent, family and student participation in the education process and in substantive decisions affecting public education and local schools;

VALUE the role of educators (together with parents, students and communities) in improving our schools;

REALIZE the importance of collaborating with educators who develop caring, trusting relationships with their students and reflect and respect the communities that their students are from;

ENCOURAGE schools to build interactive partnerships with community members and community-based groups that support the overall well-being of students, their families, and the community.

2. THE COMMISSION WILL BE SELECTED BY "EDUCATIONAL LEADERS" and will be comprised of parents, students, teachers, school administrators, and community leaders who reflect the racial, economic and linguistic demographics of New York City and its representative communities who will be assisted by qualified independent researchers.*

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* All organizations endorsing this Pledge, will present to the legislature a consensus list (developed in a public meeting) of highly-qualified, distinguished educational leaders, reflecting the diversity of our communities, from which list the Commission Selection Committee will be appointed. The Commission Selection Committee will select 50 - 60 Commission members, by application, according to a specific criteria and rubric, in open public meetings.

** The educational leaders selecting the Commission members will not include persons who may have conflicts of interest due to an alliance or contract with the DOE, the Mayor, or the Chancellor.