



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 15
Rafael T. Alvarez, *Community Superintendent*
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September 4, 2025

Dear Students, Families, and Staff,

It is with great anticipation that I welcome you to the start of the 2025–2026 school year. I hope everyone took the time this summer to enjoy your families and loved ones. Most of all, I hope you were able to spend time doing things that make you most happy. To all our new families and staff joining our district, welcome! We hope you will find a family of educators that inspire and uplift every child. Each new year gives us the opportunity to reflect on our shared vision and renew our collective commitment to the success of every child. Together, we will continue to build a district that leads with collaboration, inspiration, and empowerment.

This year, our district priorities remain deeply rooted in equity and excellence, with a special focus on our most marginalized student groups. We know that our collective efforts are strongest when every child has the opportunity to thrive. To that end, our work this year will include:

- **Strengthening Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)**
- **Implementing rigorous curricula with coherence across all schools/grades**
- **Deepening K–5 and 6–12 Literacy and Math Shifts**
- **Prioritizing PreK–2 Foundational Literacy Practices**
- **Expanding Project-Based Learning**
- **Strengthening the use and impact of Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) Models**
- **Providing robust Professional Development and Intervisitations**
- **Elevating Executive Leadership and Job-Embedded Coaching**
- **Addressing Chronic Absenteeism**

These priorities are not just goals—they are commitments. Each reflects the belief that we achieve the best outcomes for students when we work hand-in-hand as educators, families, and community partners.

This September, we begin by honoring **Labor Day**, a tribute to the hard work, dedication, and achievements of working people everywhere. We also pause to remember **September 11**, a day of solemn reflection and unity, as we honor the lives lost and the resilience that continues to define us. Later this month, we celebrate the start of **Hispanic Heritage Month**, recognizing the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of our Hispanic and Latinx communities. We also mark **Rosh Hashanah**, wishing a sweet and meaningful new year to all who observe. These important moments remind us that our diversity is our strength and that equity and inclusion shine through when we uplift every voice and every story.

As we begin this journey together, I encourage us all to embrace the spirit of collaboration, continue to inspire one another, and empower our students to dream big and achieve boldly. When we are stronger together, we ensure success for all.

Wishing you all a joyful, productive, and successful school year ahead.

In partnership,
Rafael T. Alvarez
Rafael T. Alvarez
Superintendent