

September 10, 2026

Dear District 15 Community,

On behalf of the District 15 Leadership Team, it is my honor to welcome you to the 2026–2027 school year!

I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy a restful summer and spend time with family and friends. As we begin a new school year together, we do so with excitement, optimism, and a renewed commitment to the students, families, educators, and communities we are privileged to serve across Brooklyn.

District 15 has always been defined by the passion, expertise, and unwavering dedication of its educators. Every day, our principals, teachers, and staff create welcoming environments where students are challenged, supported, and inspired to learn. Because of your hard work and commitment, our students continue to grow academically, socially, and emotionally, and our schools remain places where innovation and excellence thrive.

As we begin this school year together, we do so with a shared sense of purpose and possibility. **This year, our work will be grounded in one clear and collective priority: strengthening Tier 1 core instruction for every student, in every classroom, every day.** We know that when strong instruction serves as the foundation, every student has greater opportunities to think critically, communicate effectively, solve complex problems, collaborate with others, and experience the joy of learning. These are the skills that prepare our students not only for success in school, but for success in college, careers, and life.

Strengthening Tier 1 instruction does not mean starting over, it means building upon the exceptional teaching and leadership already taking place throughout District 15. Our schools are filled with talented educators who continuously refine their practice, inspire curiosity, and create meaningful learning experiences for students. Our role as a district team is to partner with schools by listening, providing meaningful professional learning, sharing resources, removing barriers, and creating opportunities for educators to learn from one another. Together, we will continue to strengthen the outstanding work that is already happening in classrooms across our district.

One of the most exciting ways we will continue to deepen teaching and learning this year is through **Project-Based Learning (PBL)**. We believe that rigorous learning and joyful learning are inseparable. Project-Based Learning provides students with authentic

opportunities to investigate meaningful questions, solve real-world problems, collaborate with their peers, and apply their learning in purposeful ways. It brings our high-quality curriculum to life while fostering critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, and student ownership. Most importantly, it empowers students to see themselves not simply as learners, but as thinkers, innovators, problem-solvers, and leaders who can make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Just as important as the work happening within classrooms is the learning that takes place among educators. One of District 15's greatest strengths is the incredible expertise that already exists across our schools. This year, we will continue to expand opportunities for intervisitations, collaborative professional learning, and the sharing of best practices. By opening our classroom doors, observing one another, reflecting together, and celebrating effective instructional practices, we strengthen not only individual schools but our entire district. We firmly believe that the best ideas already exist within our community, and when we learn together, everyone benefits, especially our students.

Our district values of **Collaboration, Inspiration, and Empowerment** continue to guide everything we do. Collaboration reminds us that our greatest accomplishments happen when we work together. Inspiration challenges us to continually seek new possibilities for teaching and learning. Empowerment ensures that every member of our community has the opportunity to lead, contribute, and make a lasting difference in the lives of children.

To our principals and assistant principals, thank you for leading with vision, courage, and care. Your leadership establishes the conditions that allow students and staff to flourish.

To our teachers, thank you for the expertise, creativity, and passion you bring to your classrooms each day. Your commitment to your students and your willingness to continuously grow as professionals are what make District 15 such a remarkable place to learn.

To our paraprofessionals, counselors, social workers, psychologists, parent coordinators, secretaries, school aides, school nurses, food service workers, school safety agents, custodial teams, and every member of our school and district staff, thank you for the countless ways you support our students and families every day. Your contributions are essential to the success of every school community.



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To our families, thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and advocacy. When schools and families work together, our students thrive. We look forward to partnering with you throughout the year to ensure every child experiences a joyful, engaging, and successful school experience.

The 2026–2027 school year holds tremendous promise. Together, we will continue strengthening Tier 1 instruction, expanding meaningful Project-Based Learning experiences, fostering critical thinking and student voice, learning from one another, and building upon the extraordinary work already taking place throughout District 15.

Every day, we have the opportunity to ignite curiosity, inspire creativity, and empower students to become thoughtful learners, compassionate leaders, and engaged citizens. I am excited for all that we will accomplish together and grateful to serve alongside such an exceptional community of educators, students, and families.

Welcome back, District 15. Here's to a year filled with learning, innovation, collaboration, and joy.

Together, we are District 15. Together, we are stronger.

Respectfully,

Rafael T. Alvarez

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Superintendent