

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ahmed Aboras	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q102	YES	NO	
Mandisa Abraham	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K109	YES	NO	I have been involved or contributed in almost every activity in the school. However, the PTA is my main of concern. I believe the parent's involvement with the school is critical to the overall development of the child, particularly with a child in the IEP Program. I am ready and willing to make my contribution in any way possible.
Iman Ahmed	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R004	YES	NO	I AM LOOKING FORWARD to serve on an Education Council as being a mother to a child that have IEP and facing the different challenges as a working mother with a child and student that needs a special effort and attention will make me a good candidate to serve the community that will help me and other children get the best service and education which will help the families,community and our great nation to build a new healthy generation.
Tahmina Akhter	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K177	YES	NO	i
Yanira Alameda	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M425	NO	NO	
Yanira Alameda	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M811	YES	NO	
Cynthia Alder	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M167	YES	NO	
Gregoria Alejo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X015	YES	NO	
Nairobi Aleman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	06M048	YES	NO	
Destiney Alford	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	14K147	YES	NO	As a Mother who was born in raised in NY as well attended Public School, I best fit for the job not because I'm Black/ Native American. My race blessed me with acknowledgment of what little children are facing so that place me in the important category of being a fair individual who care about children especially with special needs only another parents can understand the the triumph of seeing their child in the NICU for months. I like too see ALL children receive good education, treated with love and kindness that a huge LACK, I see the children needs protection from predators and others who engage in things that's not for the children well being. A parent that cares is important, im
Johana Andujar	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R051	YES	NO	
Johana Andujar	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R445	YES	NO	
Johana Andujar	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R445	NO	YES	
Johana Andujar	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75R373	NO	NO	

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Christi Angel	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q177	YES	NO	<p>Applicant Background: I am an involved parent of a special needs child who is in a District 75 school. I have worked with several agencies supporting my son such as AHRC, QSAC, and Hand in Hand Services, and am currently an independent parent advocate. I have been through the Front Door and I've had the pleasure of reviewing academic websites for parents for my son's school, and currently have a website and app in the process to further support our community of parents and caregivers. I believe every child needs someone willing to fiercely advocate for them while working to provide access, tools, support, and appropriate education. I have a bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University in Mass Communications and an MBA from Metropolitan College of NYC in Media Management. I have worked at the Al Gore Research Center and pride myself on being resolution oriented. Personal Statement: Having a child with a diagnosis leads us all on varying journeys. I am passionate about our children, their needs, education, and accountability. There are so many families in need, families who are lost in this journey who need a voice. I champion the little guy. I am a team worker always looking to collaborate, adapt and effect change. I am committed not only to my own son but to those of us who also need someone to lean on in the process. I am familiar with OPT issues, IEP parent advocacy, ABA services, Commhab, and Respite services. I am diligently working to make sure our children at home or school receive the education promised even within this current climate. I advocate fiercely for my son and any child that needs me. My advocacy has produced tangible results (such as gaining services and resources through the impartial hearing process.) I would love the opportunity to stand in support of our children, parents, and community at large.</p>
Serena Antoniewicz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M158	YES	NO	<p>As a lifelong New Yorker and product of the public school system I have a deep affection for the opportunities it can provide. Opportunities it should provide in an unbiased universal way. Every child deserves a free, inclusive, safe space to learn and thrive. As my family goes into year two of our NYC public school education experience it is clear to me that a stronger presence of active and engaged parents are needed to be a part of important conversations. I feel that my background in nonprofit work-centric around children's causes. Currently working in development with the NYPL, with 8 years involvement--though a lifelong library card member, I feel that I have all children and their families needs at the forefront of what is to come after an extraordinary year.</p>

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Cynthia Arbulu-Vacca	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K686	YES	NO	<p>As a mother of an LD child with dyslexia, CAPD and autism I have learned from early on to advocate for him, myself and along the way other parents and students. Everyone will tell you that there is no funding, that there are no such services, that "we just can't offer that", but I am here to tell you that there is a way for EVERY CHILD to get the placement and services they NEED...even in a pandemic year. As an advocate I've been in the Citywide Council on Special Education now for two terms, and I have been able to help many parents advocate for their children along the way. BUT there is much that still needs to be done!! I would like to continue with my seat on the council because as with any committee I have learned how to make changes by working with DOE personnel, teachers and district leaders as well as the PEP and other public officials. The work is slow and takes time, but with the new Chancellor in place I feel I am best equipped to advise her and her personnel on the needs of our children with special needs. Every parent has one or two things that they can claim that their child needs to have a better learning experience. I have always listened, supported and been "the wheel that is constantly squeaking" for parents and their children on this council and I hope that with your vote I can continue to be that person for you.</p>

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Cynthia Arbulu-Vacca	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M408	YES	NO	As a mother of a talented young lady with dyslexia, dyscalculia, and on the autism spectrum, I have learned from early on to advocate for her, myself and along the way other parents and students. Everyone will tell you that there is no funding, that there are no such accommodation, that "we just can't offer that in high school anymore", but I am here to tell you that there is a way for EVERY CHILD to get the placement and services they NEED in EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL...even in a pandemic year. As an advocate I've been on the Citywide Council on Special Education for two terms, and I have been able to help many parents advocate for their children with special needs. BUT there is much that still needs to be done!! I would like to advocate for the many High School students who have continually been overlooked these past years because they are truly "BOXED IN" to the old school to prison pipeline that has been completely unearth during this pandemic. Unfortunately, if we don't change the learning environment for our high schoolers, we as a society will feel the negative results for many years to come. My current seat on the CCSE has provided me with the opportunity to learn how to make positive changes for students citywide by working with DOE personnel, teachers, district leaders, members of the PEP and other public officials. With the relationships I have built, my vast experience in advocating for the needs of our children with special needs AND YOUR VOTE I hope to be best equipped to assist the CCHS succeed in getting our high schoolers ready and hopeful once again for their futures. Every parent of a high school student knows that the DOE has to provide them with a better learning experience. I have always listened, supported and been "the wheel that is constantly squeaking" for parents and their children with special needs, I hope that with your vote I can be that person for you and our future leaders.
Melissa Arzu	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X370	YES	NO	My name is Melissa Arzu I am 42 years old who have a 12 year old son and he receive special Ed services. When my son was 3 years old I observed that he needed to be evaluated when he was evaluated twice for early intervention I was told he needed no services. When he started kindergarten my son was having difficulty with his academic studies. When he was in third grade is when I decided to have my son evaluated and when the results came out he needed immediate services. During the years it has been a roller coaster with my son's academic studies however we still struggle in some areas. As a parent this has been very challenging to me to have a child with special needs. I stay strong for my son and I always let him know to stay positive and that everyone learn different, some learn quick and others may take longer but doesn't matter one is better. No one is better than anyone.

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Leyla Aslanova	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K206	YES	YES	
Leyla Aslanova	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K206	NO	YES	
Alexandra Atkin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X696	YES	NO	<p>My name is Alexandra (Alex) Atkin. I am a third generation New York City native and as a life long educator, I have always been interested in serving on a citywide council. I am a proud product of the NYC public school system, have spent my career in various roles in education beginning in 1991 with Teach For America in South Central, LA. I taught in District 6 Washington Heights for ten years, obtained my National Board for Professional Teach Standards Certification and my Masters in Elementary Education and as a reading specialist. Since 2004 I have been working with adults in the field of Professional Development and Program Evaluation. First, as a mentor for new teachers in the NYC Department of Education and then for Teachstone, the developers of the CLASS tool (see Teachstone.com) as a coach, program evaluator and senior trainer/ advisor for age levels infant through high school. I have worked with Directors, Principals and students all over the country but I am most passionate about supporting the teachers and students in Public School in New York City. My two children are Lena Princeton CLASS of 2025 by way of HSMSE and Evan HS of American Studies at Lehman, CLASS of 2023. If elected to the position, the issue I am most passionate about is DEI for NYC's elite High Schools. I know how to help solve the problem of missing black and brown students at our city's crown jewel high schools. I don't know how to make these schools more welcoming for students like my son, who is dyslexic. I do know Neurodiversity can't be overlooked when considering DEI. Thank you very much for considering my application.</p>

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Angela Augustus	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X160	YES	NO	My name is Angela Augustus, the mother of Anaya Hardy. My little girl was diagnosed in 2020. It was a hard pill to swallow before any professional suggested because I knew early on. But it was a difficult acceptance and process especially coming from the Caribbean. My intelligence knew there were issues but my culture took precedent over my intelligence and there was a serious battle. To make matters complicated I had no support because they don't believe autism is a legitimate diagnoses. As the mom of a you child diagnoses with autism I feel the need to be a part of the system that's playing an active role in my daughter's education development. Another reason is coming from an immigrant back ground I witnessed parents and kids suffering and experiencing the very same struggles I had accepting there was/is a fundamental problem in play and it can be taken care of once identified and dealt with early in a child's development. AS an adult fairly educated it took my many moons to make that final step getting the process started even though I knew with in months of her birth there was something wrong. I just could not bring myself to label her. My brain and heart was not ever in agreement. Being from the Caribbean I have witnessed the very same behaviors in young children at home and I can see their struggles but we had no name for what they were experiencing. I sat in class with friends who struggled to deal with the simple tasks but could not communicate what they were experiencing, after paying close attention to them I found most if not all of them were really intelligent but there just could not communicate or even comprehend what the teacher was teaching for the most part. All or most of them ended up dropping out of just as we casually say œ fell through the cracks ¤I would like to play an active role on the committee as an advocate for parents with doubts and that mask of shame. It's an extremely difficult thing to bring ourselves to accept. The Caribbean community has serious trepidation's about educational development diagnoses, especially autism and I can relate one thousand precent. I would like to lend my support to those parent having difficulties even listening to the fact their bundle of joy my need early intervention because the community needs that support. Once I am a part of the committee I will work my almost best to be as effective and active in bringing awesomeness and lending support necessary within the community.
Christina Bailey	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q295	YES	NO	Serving on the education council is very important to me. I have alway wanted to have an active roll in my children's education. I have worked with many parents to help understand the ny school system. I also own my own business and have a great ideas that would benefit not only the education council but the parents , children and the community.

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Vanessa Bambina	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q076	YES	NO	As a mother of a child with special needs, it would be an honor to represent and be a voice to all children with special needs in our NYC DOE. We the parents are our children's advocates and we must continue to instill better programs funded by the DOE to encourage and help our children succeed to a flourishing future.
Naomy Baptiste	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K221	NO	NO	My name is Naomy Baptiste, and I would like to be elected to serve on Community Education Council within district 17. I have a son that is goes to P.S. 221 and he is in the 2nd grade. I am active on the Parents and Teachers Association, and on School Leadership Team. I am currently serving as a Council Member of the CEC and have assisted in bring two (2) district 75 schools to district 17 and would like to continue with bring programs like this one and a few more to this school district that are so needed. I also love working with parents to get the things that are needed in this school district so we do not have to travel out of our way to get the services needed for our children.
Naomy Baptiste	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K140	YES	NO	My name is Naomy Baptiste, and I would like to be elected to serve on Community Education Council within district 17. I have a son that is goes to P.S. 221 and he is in the 2nd grade. I am active on the Parents and Teachers Association, and on School Leadership Team. I am currently serving as a Council Member of the CEC and have assisted in bring two (2) district 75 schools to district 17 and would like to continue with bring programs like this one and a few more to this school district that are so needed. I also love working with parents to get the things that are needed in this school district so we do not have to travel out of our way to get the services needed for our children.
Danielle Barker	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q256	YES	NO	Hi, My name is Danielle Barker. I am a veteran of the US NAVY . I am a mother of a special education/district 75 student who is currently in kindergarten. I am running for special education/D75 council because I believe that special needs children deserve chance at a great education and with the right tools and resources they can. Education is important to all and being in special education/D75 should be no different. I want to help end the stigma and negativity that children in special education face. I believe in NY, and I believe in the NYC public school system.

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Julie Barreto	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X168	YES	YES	Hello everybody, My name is Julie, I am a single mother of 2 precious boys, 3 and 5 years old. My kids go to special school. I have been learning and still learning how to help my kids with their needs from their therapist, psychologists, pediatrician, neurologist, therapy group for parents who have kids with special needs, teachers and parents, I do feel that if I elect to be an educational Council of the Department of Education, I can speak behalf parents who DOESNT KNOW ABOUT ALL THE BENEFITS THAT THEIR KIDS HAVE AND NEED TO RECEIVE. I do like to help others without nothing in exchange, every place I go, I listen, pay attention and learn to share with others. I would like to improve the quality of life that those kids and my kids have. I am not an expert but I am willing to learn, teach and express my own experiences to the community.
Jacqueline Barroso	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K170	YES	NO	A few years ago my son was diagnosed with being on the spectrum. He is autistic. Autism is not something that is visible to the eye. When I first received the news, I did not know what to expect or think. He was approved for speech and occupational therapy, as well assigned a paraprofessional. Fast Forward to a few years later, my son is very vocal, he can express his emotions and acknowledge the emotions of others. He went from not being able to write his name, to write sentences. He walked into Public School a -A reading level and currently stands at a G level. I have to give credit where its due and that is to his therapists and teachers, who have been so supportive of both of us in troubling times. Having a child, on the spectrum, is a learning experience for both mother and child. I have learned so much throughout these years that I feel ready to share those experiences with other parents. Serve as a support to them and be able to assist educators where needed. Being fluent in English and Spanish, written and oral, can help me to communicate with those who are not fluent in English. As parents, we must remember that we are the voice of our children. We know what is best for them. We also know how hard our teachers are working during this pandemic. It is important for me to serve as an Education Council because I know that like myself there are parents out there who have children with special needs. I want to be that voice for them. I feel passionate enough to want to share and connect with parents out there. Education is the epitome of our children's success. Many parents come from a distance to give them that education they couldn't get back home. I would like to stand alongside the educators, that make it possible for children to receive the best education there is. In summary, I believe if given the opportunity I could serve of a great asset to your team. As a parent and a former student, I know how important it is for parents and teachers to all be on the same page when it comes to a child's education.



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Estalin Batista	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X056	NO	NO	Hello, My name is Melissa Reynoso I am a parent of a 4 grader with an IEP and a 3rd grader . I have experience with PTA and SLT at their school P.S 056 I always loved the idea of being involved and encourage new learning methods and also to improve old methods thay help me and bring them back I would love to be involved in the department of education council.
Estalin Batista	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X056	YES	NO	Hello, My name is Melissa Reynoso I am a parent of a 4 grader with an IEP and a 3rd grader . I have experience with PTA and SLT at their school P.S 056 I always loved the idea of being involved and encourage new learning methods and also to improve old methods thay help me and bring them back I would love to be involved in the department of education council.

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Sanayi Beckles-Canton	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	05M125	YES	NO	I joined the CEC in my district six years ago as a concerned parent and community activist. I am currently a member and was the president for six years. Under my leadership, I worked to support the children of Central Harlem and NYC. By raising awareness about the council, holding DOE accountable for our students' issues ( poor academics, lack of parent engagement, low test scores, failing schools, violence, etc.), things got better around the district. I also worked to bring new programs and schools to the district so that parents would have more opportunities to choose from, other than the traditional DOE School model, which we all knew was failing our students, or the charter school option, which is destroying public education and not helping the most vulnerable students in our system. I did not do this alone, but with the support, knowledge, and teamwork of other CEC parent leaders, district school leaders, parents, elected officials, community board members, teachers, and principals; together, we have made District Five a better school environment and have help to raise parent engagement. There is still much work that needs to be done, and for that reason, I am applying. Some of the things we were also able to accomplish under my leadership in District 5 were: our council was instrumental in the opening of the first progressive elementary program(PS 125) and middle school(MS371) in District 5, as well as advocating for a District 75 elementary school at PS 200 and stopping a few charter schools from opening and expanding in the district. I also participate in two re-image projects that will possibly bring two additional new schools to District 5. One will support students with special needs like dyslexia, and a second one that would become a magnet school in Finance, Entrepreneurship, and Technology for MS students (Harlem Global). My belief is that all children deserve the best education possible and our school leaders should have integrity and be held accountable when they don't. As a former public school student in District 5 and now a parent, I know that having good education matter. It has been a great honor to serve my community. Over the years, I have always spoken the truth and called out the injustices that plague our public school system, and for that reason, I have made many friends and some enemies. But my agenda has always been about justice for the children. Initially, I was not going to run this term, but several parents, community leaders, teachers, and principals, asked me to continue the work. I have agreed to run, with the hope of continuing to make the system better for all students in DOE. I have learned a lot and appreciate all the positive parent leaders who genuinely work to make a difference. I ask for your vote, not because of
Mackenson Belotte	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K889	NO	NO	
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Sabrina Bernstein	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X304	YES	NO	My name is Sabrina Rocchio and I am formally submitting my application for Community Education Council. I have a strong background in education as I have been a teacher for 13 years and now pursuing an educational administrative degree. Although I am new to NYC public education, I believe my expertise can help me in making informed decisions that can effect our Bronx 8 children both short and long term. I have two children in Bronx 8. I am completely vested in watching my children, and the rest of the students in our community grow, and flourish. I am looking forward to the work I can contribute and am excited to make a lasting impact!
Evelyn Betances	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X053	YES	NO	quiero ser parte de consejos para este 2021 por mucha razones soy un padres como mucho esta afectado mucho de nosotros por esta pandemia mundial.Yo estado en grupo consejera en la escuela de mi hija el año pasado, cuando ella esta en pre-k. esta en cargo de informe y de cambio que necesitamos para ayudar las escuela y los padres de la escuela. yo fui un miembro de PTA en la escuela de mi hija. Y personalmente tengo y creo que tengo mucha idea para ayudar nosotros los padre y usted organiciones educatiba para avanzar como titucion educativa.

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Essence Bird	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M292	YES	NO	Hello, my name is Essence Bird. I am a mother who has been educated in NYC Public Schools from K-12. but is now a High School Teacher. Having been educated in The Bronx and Manhattan, I have experienced first-hand the policies that were implemented by hierarchies in the education field. Having that experience will give me the empathy needed when making decisions on our children's behalf. Besides being a great product of the NYC education system, my role as a mother of 16 years and a teacher of 6 years has cultivated me into the person I am today: a passionate mother, and determined teacher ready to tailor the education system for our scholars. Yes, I am also a student seeking a second masters in School Leadership. Yes, I am a mother. Yes, I am a teacher, but I feel like I am not doing enough to make sure our children succeed, which is why it is important to me to serve as an Education Council Elect. As a teacher, I am only limited to my students; as a mother, I am only limited to my child; and as a college student, I am only limited to my colleagues. However, as an Education Council Elect, I will be able to reach everyone, hear everyone, and be a voice for everyone. Using the onus of this position will allow me to go beyond my classroom, ensuring that the education system caters to our babies, whether it be something as simple as hosting Town Hall Meetings or major as education policies. As it is a parent's and teacher's duty to make sure their child is getting the best learning experience, that responsibility will never shift once I am elected into the Education Council. This opportunity is creating an alliance that is needed today: a Mother-Teacher working together with other district officials, ensuring our children get the best out of their education. It is a collaboration of hope, passion, determination, and during these times: resilience. The ingredients of a successful education system is the essence I bear.
Safiya Bishop	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	13K492	YES	NO	As a mother with 2 children in the Public School system, I understand how important it is for your voice to be heard. As a parent of 2 children with IEP's, I also understand how important it is to be part of the educational process. Over the years I have made it a priority to be actively engaged with my children's schools and look forward to taking it to the next step by joining an Educational Council. I know I have the passion and drive to be a valuable asset to our district.
Safiya Bishop	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K396	YES	NO	As a mother with 2 children in the Public School system, I understand how important it is for your voice to be heard. As a parent of 2 children with IEP's, I also understand how important it is to be part of the educational process. Over the years I have made it a priority to be actively engaged with my children's schools and look forward to taking it to the next step by joining an Educational Council. I know I have the passion and drive to be a valuable asset to our district.

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Elizabeth Bisono	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X019	NO	NO	<p>I am a strong believer that education is the key to success. As a Latina and parent of two wonderful girls in a predominantly Irish neighborhood, it has helped me realize the importance of inclusivity and cultural competency. I have seen how the lack of cultural competency in schools can negatively influence a child's progress. Many public schools in this specific school district have a long way to go for it to be culturally competent; do not get me wrong, I know they try, but much more needs to be done to make our school district more diverse and it does start with its educators and with the community. In my own cultural perspective, I grew up in a single income household/single-parent household. While growing up, I did see how society looked down on me due to my mother being a single mother and a Latina, society kind of expected me to fail. However, I didn't fail, I moved on towards obtaining a college degree, to then a Master's Degree in Psychology, and a Master's Degree in rehabilitation counseling and currently working towards becoming a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Also, when taking into consideration that I have about 20 years of experience in working with individuals that have a disability; many times, I have seen how individuals with a disability have been treated as if they were to be a burden to society, I have seen on how my own daughter has been treated as if she is not œbetter than ðr she is expected to be limited to higher expectations due to her disability. These are the many reasons, why I am applying to be part of the education council because I can very well relate to the educational community and how by providing them with concrete and realistic support, we can all make our educational community stronger through cultural competency.</p>

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Elizabeth Bisono	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X019	YES	YES	<p>I am a strong believer that education is the key to success. As a Latina and parent of two wonderful girls in a predominantly Irish neighborhood, it has helped me realize the importance of inclusivity and cultural competency. I have seen how the lack of cultural competency in schools can negatively influence a child's progress. Many public schools in this specific school district have a long way to go for it to be culturally competent; do not get me wrong, I know they try, but much more needs to be done to make our school district more diverse and it does start with its educators and with the community. In my own cultural perspective, I grew up in a single income household/single-parent household. While growing up, I did see how society looked down on me due to my mother being a single mother and a Latina, society kind of expected me to fail. However, I didn't fail, I moved on towards obtaining a college degree, to then a Master's Degree in Psychology, and a Master's Degree in rehabilitation counseling and currently working towards becoming a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Also, when taking into consideration that I have about 20 years of experience in working with individuals that have a disability; many times, I have seen how individuals with a disability have been treated as if they were to be a burden to society, I have seen on how my own daughter has been treated as if she is not œbetter than ðr she is expected to be limited to higher expectations due to her disability. These are the many reasons, why I am applying to be part of the education council because I can very well relate to the educational community and how by providing them with concrete and realistic support, we can all make our educational community stronger through cultural competency.</p>

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Sarah Blas	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R059	NO	NO	<p>My name is Sarah Blas, mother of six, community advocate, public speaker and non profit leader. My personal and professional and experience makes me an ideal candidate to serve on the education council. I like thousands of caregivers across NYC have children that are reaching their full potential with the help of I.E.P's. I know first hand that fighting against stigma, navigating evaluations and advocating for specific related services can often be emotionally and physically draining which is why I have vounteered on the PTA as well as currently holding a seat in the SLT board. Professionally, I have worked in the non profit world for over 12 years. I currently for The Child Wellness Initiative as the Equity and Community Impact Lead, Director of Health and Wellness for The House of Community and I am the Founder of Staten Island Therapeutic Gardens. I have had the privilege of facilitating Town Halls with actionable next steps which have lead to system changes, changes in mental models and policy reform. I have experience developing trauma informed workshops for teachers and school personnel. I have participated in the development of workshops for school wellness council programs on the elementary, junior high and highschool level as well as worked with school foods to help address obesity rates revise policies with an equity focused lense. Both my unique personal experiences professional experiences make me uniquely qualified for a seat on the Education Council and I would be honored to continue to serve the children and families of my community with integrity, a passion for an equitable school system.</p>

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Sarah Blas	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R059	YES	NO	My name is Sarah Blas, mother of six, community advocate, public speaker and non profit leader. My personal and professional and experience makes me an ideal candidate to serve on the education council. I like thousands of caregivers across NYC have children that are reaching their full potential with the help of I.E.P's. I know first hand that fighting against stigma, navigating evaluations and advocating for specific related services can often be emotionally and physically draining which is why I have vounteered on the PTA as well as currently holding a seat in the SLT board. Professionally, I have worked in the non profit world for over 12 years. I currently for The Child Wellness Initiative as the Equity and Community Impact Lead, Director of Health and Wellness for The House of Community and I am the Founder of Staten Island Therapeutic Gardens. I have had the privilege of facilitating Town Halls with actionable next steps which have lead to system changes, changes in mental models and policy reform. I have experience developing trauma informed workshops for teachers and school personnel. I have participated in the development of workshops for school wellness council programs on the elementary, junior high and highschool level as well as worked with school foods to help address obesity rates revise policies with an equity focused lense. Both my unique personal experiences professional experiences make me uniquely qualified for a seat on the Education Council and I would be honored to continue to serve the children and families of my community with integrity, a passion for an equitable school system.
Nathaniel Blue	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q080	YES	NO	



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ebony Bolston	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	14K126	YES	NO	I wish to be elected because I will have three young girls that are in the NYC public school system. I have deep understanding of the importance of having quality education. I would like to be apart of educating the community about the importance of what it is to have an education. I would also like to how I can help expand on how the students are taught. We all know that there are several ways to learn things and I believe that NYC schools should start to adopt the other forms of learning. We want kids to be 100% engaged in learning new things, not feel as if it's a punishment for going to school. We need this next generation to wonderful kids to know we will truly have their backs and we want them to truly love coming to school and getting the best education there is possible. Growing up in the projects it wasn't easy and not having the best resources to fully develop all of potential was hard. I am glad I did push myself later in life to continue in my education but not all kids have that same drive because they simply do not know where to start. We must start to teach our children different things so they will want to show up. We need to give them the resources in their schools to break down these barriers that we come up against in the neighborhoods that do not have the full resources as other communities. If I am picked I will use this platform to help encourage the communities to get their education and help to find ways to get the necessary funds to start to truly think out the box so we can engage all students with the best education.
Christina Bonet	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q093	YES	NO	The reason I choose to run as a candidate for council for special education is because I had my daughter which I saw thrive thru being in special education into regular education and beacons a national honor role student when she graduated .Now I am working to help my son also thrives and become the best him . I Believe I have great input as a mom and also will be a great council seat to help move forward in better to get the students what they need . Thank you for your consideration and hope to here from someone .

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Patrice Bonnett	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	13K483	YES	NO	My name is Patrice Bonnett, parent of children attending New York city public schools. I have been a parent of the Department of Education, since 1994. I have serve as PTA president, PAC chairperson and School leadership from 1996 to 2003 at P.S 241. I participate in several different committee, while my children were at PS 107. I participate in C30 process for several different schools my children have attend throughout the years. I receive yearly training with providing oversight for individual with developmental disabilities. I provide therapeutic mentoring for young adults. I am current PTA treasurer and PAC chairperson for Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice. My child that attend this wonderful facility had an IEP until last week. Along with my diligence, her wonderful educators and her perseverance she is now only taking AP course and graduating this year. My other child attend FDR and also have an IEP, but I am working diligently with him to make sure he has the same opportunities. I will be a great asset because I am committed to any task, position or opportunity given to me. I hope I have the opportunity to bring my abilities to the Council.
Patrice Bonnett	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K505	NO	NO	My name is Patrice Bonnett, parent of children attending New York city public schools. I have been a parent of the Department of Education, since 1994. I have serve as PTA president, PAC chairperson and School leadership from 1996 to 2003 at P.S 241. I participate in several different committee, while my children were at PS 107. I participate in C30 process for several different schools my children have attend throughout the years. I receive yearly training with providing oversight for individual with developmental disabilities. I provide therapeutic mentoring for young adults. I am current PTA treasurer and PAC chairperson for Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice. My child that attend this wonderful facility had an IEP until last week. Along with my diligence, her wonderful educators and her perseverance she is now only taking AP course and graduating this year. My other child attend FDR and also have an IEP, but I am working diligently with him to make sure he has the same opportunities. I will be a great asset because I am committed to any task, position or opportunity given to me. I hope I have the opportunity to bring my abilities to the Council.
Rosalyn Bonsell	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M630	YES	NO	As the mother of a teen with developmental and educational issues, I feel I am very well equipped to understand the needs of special education students. New York City and the Department of Educations have given so much to my family, that I feel it's time to give back to the community.
Maia Borus	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M290	YES	NO	I am interested in a position on this council to help educate parents and the community about special education. I also have a daughter in special education.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Maia Borus	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M290	YES	NO	I am interested in a position on this council to help educate parents and the community about special education. I also have a daughter in special education.
Elvita Bouzy	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	19K654	YES	NO	Greetings, I am a parent of a child with an IEP, and speech and language disability. I have been advocating for my son since he was classified with speech and language difficulties 7 years ago. It has been a long and at times frustrating journey ensuring that my son attains the proper educational services as well as helping him to navigate through the system as a student with a "dissability". I attended public school all of my academic life and it was a rewarding experience for me. The changes implemented within the educational system today has deprived my son of many of the great experiences that I had as a child in the same system. Instead of getting bettwr many of the rsforms have created obstacles for our children. The system has to learn to work together with parents to create successfup students and also, I believe all children in this city have the right to a proper education , where they feel safe, confident and and encouraged.
Phillippa Bowden	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X723	YES	NO	I am a single parent of 3 children, 2 of which is a college graduates. I have a 9 years old son who has so many struggles. I also work with children with special needs in a private setting. I am a advocate for my son to try to get him in the right setting that fit for him. I believe that every child with disabilities deserve to be place in an setting that will meet all their needs. As a parent I will do my best to represent all the children of New York City.
Kayereathea Boyd	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K423	YES	NO	I have held the President seat at my daughter High school at Brooklyn Frontiers for three years and the PTA put together so many parent engagements to encourage current parents and new parents to come out to see what are the different ways to staying on track with their children academic path and being their child's best advocate. Also, explaining that this not only builds their self-esteem but their self-motivation to be their best not only in school but in life. I am an educator, I have a home-based daycare working with children in these age groups infants, toddlers and school-age. I am eager to make a difference within my community. People tend to never forget their teacher who had a great positive impact on their lives and I know for the children that are in my care will remember me!! My staff and I are shaping young minds to be come tomorrow's leaders.

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Donnell Brown	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	07X151	YES	NO	Hello ladies and gentlemen my name is donnell brown i'm the current title one chair at ms 151 and i was a council member of cec7 i'm a blue collar candidate is easy for my to tell you what i would bring to the council i my self rather show you i'm your tired of people telling you what they can do for you but don't do it .i'm different you i been there i know what its like toto have a child with a iep i know the challenge it brings.but fare not my friends i'm a proven leader and i want to hear from everybody. If you see me on the street you have a problem with your school i want to know i will help.
Kim Brown	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M096	YES	NO	I would like to run for a seat on the Citywide Council on Special Education and Community Education Council on account of my 3 boys who each has special needs. I want to be a voice for them and all families with children with and without special needs. I want to be a voice to make sure our families are getting all they need to best support their children's educational needs as well as basic needs. I believe my life experience of getting support from school administration, mental health specialist, therapist, councils and community based organizations for my children has given me the best experience that I need to be able to focus on the needs of our families and children. I have served on district 4 CEC for 2 years as well. I have been and currently am a member of Riverdale Ave Middle School Student Leadership Team, Presidents' Council and a member of the District leadership team. I am also, the Title 1 Chairperson at RAMS. I am a mother of 10 children. I have had many roles on the PA/PTA in different schools where my children attended. I have been a part of the school system for years. I believe that community and family also matters. I believe children and families should have resources in their community as well as in school. My goal is to make sure these services are worth while to give each child and family the support they need in all areas of life.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Kim Brown	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	23K668	NO	NO	I would like to run for a seat on the Citywide Council on Special Education and Community Education Council on account of my 3 boys who each has special needs. I want to be a voice for them and all families with children with and without special needs. I want to be a voice to make sure our families are getting all they need to best support their children's educational needs as well as basic needs. I believe my life experience of getting support from school administration, mental health specialist, therapist, councils and community based organizations for my children has given me the best experience that I need to be able to focus on the needs of our families and children. I have served on district 4 CEC for 2 years as well. I have been and currently am a member of Riverdale Ave Middle School Student Leadership Team, Presidents' Council and a member of the District leadership team. I am also, the Title 1 Chairperson at RAMS. I am a mother of 10 children. I have had many roles on the PA/PTA in different schools where my children attended. I have been a part of the school system for years. I believe that community and family also matters. I believe children and families should have resources in their community as well as in school. My goal is to make sure these services are worth while to give each child and family the support they need in all areas of life.
Kim Brown	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	79M973	NO	NO	I would like to run for a seat on the Citywide Council on Special Education and Community Education Council on account of my 3 boys who each has special needs. I want to be a voice for them and all families with children with and without special needs. I want to be a voice to make sure our families are getting all they need to best support their children's educational needs as well as basic needs. I believe my life experience of getting support from school administration, mental health specialist, therapist, councils and community based organizations for my children has given me the best experience that I need to be able to focus on the needs of our families and children. I have served on district 4 CEC for 2 years as well. I have been and currently am a member of Riverdale Ave Middle School Student Leadership Team, Presidents' Council and a member of the District leadership team. I am also, the Title 1 Chairperson at RAMS. I am a mother of 10 children. I have had many roles on the PA/PTA in different schools where my children attended. I have been a part of the school system for years. I believe that community and family also matters. I believe children and families should have resources in their community as well as in school. My goal is to make sure these services are worth while to give each child and family the support they need in all areas of life.
Nakia Brown	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K146	YES	NO	

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Aishah Bruno	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	06M153	YES	NO	I would like to continue advocating for children and their families. I served as PTA president, a member of the School Leadership Team and, President's Council. I am currently a member of CEC6.
Rochell Bryant	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K676	YES	NO	
Marlissea Buckley	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M489	NO	NO	
Marlissea Buckley	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	05M514	YES	NO	
Constantina Burrows	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q256	YES	NO	Hello my name is Ms. Constantina Burrow I have five children and all have went to nyc public schools My eldest son had an IEP throughout his school years He now has a Bachelor's degree in graphic arts My youngest is in district 75 now You have to have a special type of heart to with these children I really appreciate all the staff that works with them. Now more than ever I would love to work with the board for these children and parents Just here to be helpful to all parties that work with this board Thank you for your time
Alexandra Bynoe-Kasden	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	14K084	YES	NO	I am a lifelong Brooklynite, a graduate of NYC public schools and a daughter of an NYC public school teacher, and currently serve as the Public Programs Coordinator at the Brooklyn Children's Museum. I feel that my experience growing up and raising a non-neurotypical child here, as well as working to serve New York City children in both my current and past employment position me to serve the families of special-needs children on the Education Council for Special Needs. I am also beginning the process of pursuing a Master's in Library Science, focused on K-12 literacy, and hope that this educational pursuit will help to bolster my knowledge of the educational needs of all of the children NYC serves. I want to dedicate my career to helping families and children and I believe that starts with being at the table where education policies are discussed and put forth.
Taura Bynum	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	16K021	YES	NO	Blessings, serving for the Education Council is important to me because not only did my mother fight for my right and other students but she believed so much in my education coming up. I'm a mother to a daughter whom has an IEP and I'm fight for her and and every other students with a IEP. These children are definitely our future and I look up to my daughter because she's been through a lot and she's still willing for get through school just to make me so happy. I tell my daughter so many stories of how it was years ago when I was in school and I definitely see a change and I want to continue making a change for the next generation of students that's upcoming and push it forward. We all need to work together as a team to make our Education system more better for these children.

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Mercedes Cabral	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X073	NO	NO	Serving on an education council is important to me because I want to be able to better the educational system for our children. As a parent we know best what our children need. Being involved in the decision to better our school community is important. I know how much of a struggle it is get what need and get people who really care and want to work with our children for a better future and not treat them like funds for the school. I want to be the voice for the children and parent who aren't educated enough to know what their child may need. Especially for non English speaking families. Let make some changes and make a differences!
Mercedes Cabral	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X454	YES	NO	Serving on an education council is important to me because I want to be able to better the educational system for our children. As a parent we know best what our children need. Being involved in the decision to better our school community is important. I know how much of a struggle it is get what need and get people who really care and want to work with our children for a better future and not treat them like funds for the school. I want to be the voice for the children and parent who aren't educated enough to know what their child may need. Especially for non English speaking families. Let make some changes and make a differences!
Mercedes Cabral	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X360	NO	YES	Serving on an education council is important to me because I want to be able to better the educational system for our children. As a parent we know best what our children need. Being involved in the decision to better our school community is important. I know how much of a struggle it is get what need and get people who really care and want to work with our children for a better future and not treat them like funds for the school. I want to be the voice for the children and parent who aren't educated enough to know what their child may need. Especially for non English speaking families. Let make some changes and make a differences!
Caddy Cabrera	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84M358	YES	YES	I think as parent of a child with learning disabilities will allow me to be able to help other parents that are going to the same situation as me and also to obtain the proper fund an advocate for the children's, also I am plant base chef and health coach and I will love to pass a law for changes on city school for a healthier food and educate through workshops the school staff to have a better food choices for our kids
Esmeralda Cabrera	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	23K041	YES	NO	
Jazha Cabrera	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	27Q317	YES	NO	I want to be able to help families gather resources needed to be able to help their children succeed. Knowing Spanish will also help families of children who only speak Spanish and need that extra hand,



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Myrtelle Cadet	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q075	YES	NO	Having served on the Community Council for Special Education in 2015-2017, I welcome the opportunity to serve again on an Education Council for 2021-2023. As a member, I attended monthly meetings at the office of the Superintendent, visited schools and voted on various district issues.
Michelle Caines	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	06M209	NO	NO	
Michelle Caines	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	06M314	YES	NO	
Monifa Cannady	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R057	NO	NO	
Monifa Cannady	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R063	YES	NO	
Helen Carames	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K205	NO	NO	It is my hope that by taking a seat on the council I would be able to improve education for all the children in the city, and improve the relationship between the BoE and the average parent.
Helen Carames	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K205	YES	NO	It is my hope that by taking a seat on the council I would be able to improve education for all the children in the city, and improve the relationship between the BoE and the average parent.
Diana Carpio	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q993	YES	NO	I decided to apply because I have a special needs son who is 7 years old. I am a great advocate for my son and which as a parent i can relate with other parents who has special needs. I am just giving it a try, maybe my voice can make a difference.
Regina Carter	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X055	YES	NO	I am a parent from CS55, and I serve as the secretary on the PA board. As well the SLT, I am very involved within my school and just want to effect change on a larger level. I also volunteer at a local Tenants association, the clay avenue tenants association, we served meals throughout the pandemic from march to august 3rd, we also since march have been distributing PPE to the community on a daily basis. This is another way for me to be useful and to serve the community.
Porsche Carvalho	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M033	YES	NO	
Porsche Carvalho	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M422	YES	NO	
Xochitl Casanova	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X386	NO	NO	Yo Xochitl Casanova me quiero postular a un puesto ya que me gusta ayudar a la comunidad y también e sido tesorera en las escuelas de mis hijos y también por que me importa mucho la educación de todos los niños del mañana espero sea elegida por todos ustedes gracias y que Dios los bendiga
Xochitl Casanova	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X386	YES	YES	Yo Xochitl Casanova me quiero postular a un puesto ya que me gusta ayudar a la comunidad y también e sido tesorera en las escuelas de mis hijos y también por que me importa mucho la educación de todos los niños del mañana espero sea elegida por todos ustedes gracias y que Dios los bendiga



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Xochitl Casanova	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X447	NO	YES	Yo Xochitl Casanova me quiero postular a un puesto ya que me gusta ayudar a la comunidad y también e sido tesorera en las escuelas de mis hijos y también por que me importa mucho la educación de todos los niños del mañana espero sea elegida por todos ustedes gracias y que Dios los bendiga
Sue Ling Castillo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q110	YES	NO	I believe that my point of view is beneficial to the education council. As a mother of a child that has been declared disabled and has a very challenging health condition, I want nothing more then to make sure my child gets the best education possible. I am sure that working together we can make sure that children that need extra help actually receive the necessary help in order to achieve their academic goals. That they actually are led to excel not just barely make the standard mark. I have noticed that sometimes parents are the best advocate for their child so that the child is not just doing the minimum and is given the same time and consideration as those students are are more academically gifted.i know its challenging but I know it can be done for the best interest of the children. I believe that if they can do it then we shouldn't limit them to only reach normalized standards.
Sue Ling Castillo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q331	NO	NO	I believe that my point of view is beneficial to the education council. As a mother of a child that has been declared disabled and has a very challenging health condition, I want nothing more then to make sure my child gets the best education possible. I am sure that working together we can make sure that children that need extra help actually receive the necessary help in order to achieve their academic goals. That they actually are led to excel not just barely make the standard mark. I have noticed that sometimes parents are the best advocate for their child so that the child is not just doing the minimum and is given the same time and consideration as those students are are more academically gifted.i know its challenging but I know it can be done for the best interest of the children. I believe that if they can do it then we shouldn't limit them to only reach normalized standards.

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Carolyn Castro	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X194	YES	NO	<p>Hello everyone and thank you for taking a moment to review my statement. My name is Carolyn Castro and I currently serve as the IEP Chair for the IEP Committee within CEC 11, Bronx. I entered the CEC two years ago when I saw that my school needed support creating community parking for teachers so that students could maintain their recreational area as opposed to the school using it as a parking lot for teachers. A lot has changed for me upon entering the CEC and I found my passion and advocacy lives within in the IEP world. A mother of a child with LBLD, ADHD, and Written Expressive Disorder, I have thrown myself into solution-oriented advocacy not only for my son, but other children in the community as a way bridging the gap of services afforded this population. Working with the D11 Superintendent the IEP Committee assisted in the creation of a workshop series for parents of struggling readers called Universal Literacy. The workshops still reside on the District page are available for all to utilize. We have also worked together to pilot a program beginning 2021 with Lexia Learning, and I've drafted resolutions specific for Children with Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, and Dyscalculia for better methods in teaching, choosing curriculum, and early identification of struggling readers. A frequent attendee to the monthly CCSE meetings, I simply want to be part of a team where there is like-mindedness in understanding issues pertaining to the IEP/Special Needs community and how we as parents can be intimately involved in that process. I hold the current CCSE board with high regard and would be honored to work alongside them in continuing to seek solutions for our children. An opportunity with the CCSE would mean expanding my knowledge and support to this community. It would afford me the ability to advocate more passionately for children across the city and work alongside this impressive team of parents. As well as work alongside the Division of Specialized Instruction and Student Support and other key stakeholders of the IEP world. At a more grassroots level, I've recently received certification to assist other IEP parents through Include NYC. My goal is to help all parents understand the IEP process, including understanding the IEP plan, and understanding the options they have as an IEP parent. I am honored to have had the opportunity to apply but If I am not selected this go around, I thank you for the opportunity and I will continue to be an audience member working alongside the CCSE. We are one community working together!</p>

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Jennifer Catherall	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q041	NO	NO	<p>My name is Jennifer Catherall, I am a lifelong resident of Bayside Queens and a mother of 3 young children. My oldest two are currently enrolled in 2nd grade and Kindergarten, at PS 41Q, The Crocheron School in district 26. My youngest will be joining the public school system in 2 years. I am an active member of the school community, attending all events and meetings, holding the position of class parent for both of my kid's classes for the last 4 years, as well as volunteering as much as I can. In addition to being a mother, I have built a career as an advertising executive for the last 17 years. I have been a member of the executive leadership team in global agencies and can bring the experience I've learned from the boardroom into this role. I am an empathetic leader with great communication skills. Being a successful leader in corporate America has taught me how to be resilient but also how important it is to be a team player. You can't succeed without the trust and support of your team. I am a transparent and honest leader who truly engages my team on every decision I make. I have lead all diversity and inclusion initiatives in my last few roles and it is something I am passionate about and that I plan on incorporating into this role. With my training and experience in diversity, I always lead from a place of empathy, understanding and acceptance. I value the different perspectives that a diverse team brings to the table and I'm always trying to represent that diversity in all decisions, presentations and work that is brought forward. Though I've built a successful career over the last 17 years, the hardest job of all has been motherhood especially over this last year when trying to juggle everything during a pandemic. My oldest daughter is a special ed student and I remember very vividly our very first parent/teacher conference when her nursery teacher brought up her concerns. I cried the entire way home because, like any mother, I only wanted the best for my children and didn't want any "obstacles" to get in the way of their success. I've come a long way since that first parent teacher conference. In fact, my special ed daughter has taught me more than anyone else. I have learned to see the world differently and have realized that special ed students are gifted in ways that our society does not understand, accept and celebrate enough. I've learned that the village of other special ed parents is a powerful force that has provided me with so much support, kindness, and wisdom and I've always remembered that and have given back to other parents as much as I can. The last year has made it even more clear that our political system does not support families and parents who are on the brink all throughout this country. We are all trying to stay afloat with little to no help from our</p>

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Laura Ceden	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q190	YES	NO	
Laura Ceden	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q328	NO	YES	
Dilek Celebi	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q012	YES	YES	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Jo Ann Charles	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M226	YES	NO	With gratitude, I decided to apply for a seat with the Education Council. I have a Masters degree in Public Health and presently pursuing a doctoral degree in Public health. I am passionate about my son's needs and his future goals with the DOE. My passion lies with the health and well-being for all communities, especially the special needs community. The goal is to one day be a Global Ambassdor to help educate families raising children on the spectrum of Autism. So many families have language barriers and are unable to tap into all the resources available to them. Hence, provided this opportunity to have a voice to make effective policies and initiate change strategies is one step closer to helping the underserved. Today, public health has been in the forefront due to the Coronavirus pandemic. As a public health professional, I believe this is my life's passion and purpose to bring awareness to the perils that effect our communities. Everyone deserves equal treatment in terms of resources afforded through the DOE. I believe along with my passion and determination to work collaboratively with other council members, we can make a difference with the selected population of students. Looking forward to this opportunity. Blessings and joy!
Monique Charles	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M019	YES	NO	I am currently the parent of two children and expecting my third any day now. My oldest has been a student in the New York City public education system since he entered 3k and he is currently a second-grade student at PS 19 I have served on the PTA since his kindergarten year. At an early age, I realized that Xavier ( my oldest son) struggled with sensory and feeding issues. I worked with a private therapist until Xavier was old enough to apply for early intervention. Xavier received his first IEP, for speech-related services. I am proud to be a parent of a child who receives special education services. I became his advocate and fought to make sure he is getting the correct services he needs, in order to reach his full potential. My experiences with the special education system led me to begin my graduate school career in order to become a special education teacher for grades 1-6. I believe I could be a major asset to the Education Council and would be honored to serve as an advocate for all the other families that receive special education services through the New York City public school system.

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Natalie Chavez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	07X157	YES	NO	My name is Natalie Chavez. I'm a mom of three. Serving as an Education council means a lot to me because I personally have a daughter in second grade with speech delays. My two year old toddler is also showing signs of speech delay and I feel like education is important to each child mostly those with speech or leaning delays. I want to be apart of a change to help these kids. I want to give my opinions. I want to improve education for each kid. I really hope to be chosen and be apart of a change for the better of the future of our children.
Wenming Chen	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K180	YES	YES	Dear parents, I'm wenming Chen. I have two kids currently attending public school, and one of them currently in IEP. As a first generation immigrant, it's my pleasure to run for Cec 20 member. I am eager to serve and share my experience with the D20 community. I want to help new immigrant families like mine to better communicate their needs to the schools. I've been an active member of PTA at my children's schools. I was nominated and elected as PS160 PTA president. During my term as the PTA president, I organized bake sales, scholastic book club sales. I sponsored events such as pumpkin patch, Thanksgiving school festival and chinese new year celebration activities. My volunteer activities have not only created many happy and cherishable memories to the kids, but the funds also contributed to the success of chess club and dance classes at PS 160. I believe in parent participation and engagement with their children's learning process. I also want to set a good example to my children. During the learning process, I also managed to obtain a GED degree. I believe in merit, and I hope that our children will have opportunities to receive better education and I hope that through their hard work, they will be able to contribute to society . I hope I can bring a brand new experience and prospective to cec 20.

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Djuana Chirse	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84K680	NO	NO	
Djuana Chirse	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84K680	YES	NO	
Shellon Christian	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K312	YES	NO	I have been an International educator for the past 30 years. I enjoy the beauty of seeing children learn and the terror of our students struggling to learn. The exposure to numerous teaching/learning strategies has reduced the problem temporarily; but the problem still lingers in in large volumes. However, serving on the council will provide me the opportunity to voice my opinions on best strategies for both teachers and students!

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Teresa Christian	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q024	NO	NO	My Name is Teresa Christian and I live in Flushing, Queens. For over seven years have worked with Administration for Children Service, as Child Protective Specialist. While I was working, I sought to ensure that any child that I came in contact with was provided with adequate educational services. If I needed to sit in on child's school meetings or reach out to tutoring agencies to get additional serves for the child, then this is what I did. I retired after seven years because I adopted four small children. Working side by side with a foster care agency to ensure that my children receive adequate and appropriate academic services was what I did diligently. Four of my children are enrolled in the NYYC public school system and the other 3 are products of NYC public school. I currently work with the Queens Library as an English as a Second Language Teacher for adult students. I will preform my duties as a Education Council with great pride. I will ensure that I uphold my duties with great pride.
Teresa Christian	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q024	YES	NO	My Name is Teresa Christian and I live in Flushing, Queens. For over seven years have worked with Administration for Children Service, as Child Protective Specialist. While I was working, I sought to ensure that any child that I came in contact with was provided with adequate educational services. If I needed to sit in on child's school meetings or reach out to tutoring agencies to get additional serves for the child, then this is what I did. I retired after seven years because I adopted four small children. Working side by side with a foster care agency to ensure that my children receive adequate and appropriate academic services was what I did diligently. Four of my children are enrolled in the NYYC public school system and the other 3 are products of NYC public school. I currently work with the Queens Library as an English as a Second Language Teacher for adult students. I will preform my duties as a Education Council with great pride. I will ensure that I uphold my duties with great pride.



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Teresa Christian	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q185	YES	NO	My Name is Teresa Christian and I live in Flushing, Queens. For over seven years have worked with Administration for Children Service, as Child Protective Specialist. While I was working, I sought to ensure that any child that I came in contact with was provided with adequate educational services. If I needed to sit in on child's school meetings or reach out to tutoring agencies to get additional serves for the child, then this is what I did. I retired after seven years because I adopted four small children. Working side by side with a foster care agency to ensure that my children receive adequate and appropriate academic services was what I did diligently. Four of my children are enrolled in the NYEC public school system and the other 3 are products of NYC public school. I currently work with the Queens Library as an English as a Second Language Teacher for adult students. I will preform my duties as a Education Council with great pride. I will ensure that I uphold my duties with great pride.
Jennifer Collins	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X132	NO	NO	The education of my children have always been a priority. During the pandemic the lives of everyone was changed drastically. We are still trying to adjust to new forms of learning and new forms of understanding. I came across this position and felt this would be great for me. If I could contribute to education in some some sort, I would be making a difference. I would love to get engaged and make a difference with any child. Currently I work in Foster care. Everyday is a challenge for me and I feel this would be another challenge I could conquer or take on.
Jennifer Collins	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X132	YES	NO	The education of my children have always been a priority. During the pandemic the lives of everyone was changed drastically. We are still trying to adjust to new forms of learning and new forms of understanding. I came across this position and felt this would be great for me. If I could contribute to education in some some sort, I would be making a difference. I would love to get engaged and make a difference with any child. Currently I work in Foster care. Everyday is a challenge for me and I feel this would be another challenge I could conquer or take on.
Dolores Concepcion	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K468	NO	NO	I want to be part of the education council because I feel that I can bring unique ideas and I am flexible with my schedule and I care about others. I like being part of something that can do good for the school.
Dolores Concepcion	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R046	YES	NO	I want to be part of the education council because I feel that I can bring unique ideas and I am flexible with my schedule and I care about others. I like being part of something that can do good for the school.
Anika Corse	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X723	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Stacy Cotterell	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q752	YES	NO	
Patricia Cousar	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M839	YES	NO	
Matthew Crescio	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q229	NO	NO	<p>My name is Matthew Crescio. My twins are currently in the 1st grade at PS 229. My daughter is in the G &amp; T program and my son has an IEP, so I am very familiar with the range of needs that students have. I have been attending the monthly CEC Meetings and have become very aware of the issues facing our District and the impact it can potentially have on our students. Recently, I was elected to the School Leadership Team at 229 and am looking forward to working collaboratively with the team to strengthen the school community for the success of all students. As a former business owner in the district, I've worked with the Juniper Park Civic Association in various community events. Additionally, my family had been a part of this community for nearly 100 years and I am committed to its continued success and growth. I understand the diverse needs of the children of our district and am committed to voicing those needs to the benefit of all students. I have a vested interest in working with the Community Superintendent to strengthen the work done in schools leading to student success and achievement. I am committed to advocating for what is right, voicing issues that could potentially be a barrier for student achievement and standing up to Tweed when they make decisions that are not right for the students in District 24. Now more than ever, given the challenges facing our students, I feel that it is important to have a strong voice and advocate on the CEC for the benefit of all children and families of this amazing district. If elected, I promise to be that voice for ALL.</p>

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Matthew Crescio	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q229	YES	NO	My name is Matthew Crescio. My twins are currently in the 1st grade at PS 229. My daughter is in the G & T program and my son has an IEP, so I am very familiar with the range of needs that students have. I have been attending the monthly CEC Meetings and have become very aware of the issues facing our District and the impact it can potentially have on our students. Recently, I was elected to the School Leadership Team at 229 and am looking forward to working collaboratively with the team to strengthen the school community for the success of all students. As a former business owner in the district, I've worked with the Juniper Park Civic Association in various community events. Additionally, my family had been a part of this community for nearly 100 years and I am committed to its continued success and growth. I understand the diverse needs of the children of our district and am committed to voicing those needs to the benefit of all students. I have a vested interest in working with the Community Superintendent to strengthen the work done in schools leading to student success and achievement. I am committed to advocating for what is right, voicing issues that could potentially be a barrier for student achievement and standing up to Tweed when they make decisions that are not right for the students in District 24. Now more than ever, given the challenges facing our students, I feel that it is important to have a strong voice and advocate on the CEC for the benefit of all children and families of this amazing district. If elected, I promise to be that voice for ALL.
Shera Crosby	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M450	NO	NO	I am a parent of 3. my youngest is autistic and my oldest is in high school. I watch the struggles of both with them dealing with the lack of services due to the lack of support in the DOE. I promise to do my best to ensure greater services for our upcoming generations if elected to have a seat
Shera Crosby	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M308	YES	NO	I am a parent of 3. my youngest is autistic and my oldest is in high school. I watch the struggles of both with them dealing with the lack of services due to the lack of support in the DOE. I promise to do my best to ensure greater services for our upcoming generations if elected to have a seat
Shera Crosby	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M094	YES	NO	I am a parent of 3. my youngest is autistic and my oldest is in high school. I watch the struggles of both with them dealing with the lack of services due to the lack of support in the DOE. I promise to do my best to ensure greater services for our upcoming generations if elected to have a seat

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Carmen Cruz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M529	NO	NO	I have decided that serving on an Education Council because it's important to me in these dark times that all children get all the help they need because as a mother of eight children nothing is more important than their education and need to succeed in life after giving them all the tools to do so. To me that would be understanding how the system works first hand. I'm internetest in learning more about I.E.P, special education for children with special needs as well. A little insight into my life I have two children who are disable one being with cerebral palsy which affected the right side of his body and another with ataxia a rare disease that now requires her to be in a wheelchair. I'm also familiar with I.E.P for three of my children and my younger brother has them. I would be a strong candidate because I'm open to a changelle and although this would be a new field of work environment for myself I always look to learn for what works best for all involved parties being its from the schools, students and or parents/guardians. I graduated from Allen School of Health Science and I believe that my experiences in the medical field can also help me to succeed on the council with my abilities to multiply tasks and manage what needs to be done.
Carmen Cruz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M333	NO	NO	I have decided that serving on an Education Council because it's important to me in these dark times that all children get all the help they need because as a mother of eight children nothing is more important than their education and need to succeed in life after giving them all the tools to do so. To me that would be understanding how the system works first hand. I'm internetest in learning more about I.E.P, special education for children with special needs as well. A little insight into my life I have two children who are disable one being with cerebral palsy which affected the right side of his body and another with ataxia a rare disease that now requires her to be in a wheelchair. I'm also familiar with I.E.P for three of my children and my younger brother has them. I would be a strong candidate because I'm open to a changelle and although this would be a new field of work environment for myself I always look to learn for what works best for all involved parties being its from the schools, students and or parents/guardians. I graduated from Allen School of Health Science and I believe that my experiences in the medical field can also help me to succeed on the council with my abilities to multiply tasks and manage what needs to be done.

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Carmen Cruz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M333	YES	NO	I have decided that serving on an Education Council because it's important to me in these dark times that all children get all the help they need because as a mother of eight children nothing is more important than their education and need to succeed in life after giving them all the tools to do so. To me that would be understanding how the system works first hand. I'm internetest in learning more about I.E.P, special education for children with special needs as well. A little insight into my life I have two children who are disable one being with cerebral palsy which affected the right side of his body and another with ataxia a rare disease that now requires her to be in a wheelchair. I'm also familiar with I.E.P for three of my children and my younger brother has them. I would be a strong candidate because I'm open to a changelle and although this would be a new field of work environment for myself I always look to learn for what works best for all involved parties being its from the schools, students and or parents/guardians. I graduated from Allen School of Health Science and I believe that my experiences in the medical field can also help me to succeed on the council with my abilities to multiply tasks and manage what needs to be done.
Elvis Cruz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X097	YES	NO	Serving others is never beneath anybody. Serving in the Education Council would be an honorable position for me as a parent. To be involved in the education of our future leaders is up to us. We need strong advocates and hands-on parents that not only wants to voice their concerns and opinions, but do something about it. I currently serve in the Advisory Board for a Technical Company and understand the influence that our words and actions and the contributions it makes to their successes. Serving on this level would also provide positive feedback to the Community, the parents, students and the educators alike. Taking the information and experiences of what is working vs. what is not can give the schools and education system an upper hand to better be equipped with the knowledge and metrics to achieve and accomplish goals. I know teachers and educators have a vision for the kids and as a parent, we should come into agreement with that vision and make it our mission to see it through.
Lorraine Cruz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X003	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Lauren Curtis	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K231	YES	NO	As a parent of a seven year old child who has ADD and autism I find it important for their education to be of the utmost importance. I have a hard time understanding the curriculum being based on a standard general education progress report and not being geared towards the needs of district 75 children. All needs are different but the current program is setting up our children to fail. Seeing 1's straight down on my sons progress report makes me realize that the system isn't understanding our children. After working with my son remotely through the pandemic we are now apart of the learning experience. We have been able to get in touch with our children on another level. Not only as a parent but as a teacher as well. We see how hard our teachers are working but the parent involvement being most important. In one year I have seen major progress in my child. I realize that there are a lot of things that could make the program run much more smoothly since I feel it's the forgotten program. It may have advanced in many ways but it can't be compared to general Ed. I hope that if I'm elected that I could assist all parents in my shoes with their goals for their child. We're all in this together!
Claudine Cyrius Saint Victor	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q165	YES	NO	Quite simply, I am a first generation American of Caribbean ancestry. I graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School with a first hand experience of how NYC public schools can also be a pathway to Ivy League education and diverse educational and professional paths. I am also a mother of two children with learning differences navigating the special education process within NYC schools. I am extremely involved in my children's education and I want to Stan in and advocate for the families that may not have the time or the resources or information to create a strong educational foundation for their children. Thank you

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Heather Dailey	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q219	YES	NO	My name is Heather Dailey and I am a social worker and a mother, I have a 9 year old son with Autism who is in the Horizon program at PS 219. As a parent of a special needs child with and IEP I think that it is important that our children have a strong advocate at the table. I believe in equity and inclusion and I am very concerned that students with disabilities were not prioritized during the COVID pandemic. In response to the inequities I saw my son face as well as many other students with disabilities, I started organizing with other parents and co-founded the Protect NYC Special Education Group. Our group co-sponsored a petition with Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi and 50 other representatives asking the mayor to make a plan for students with disabilities. I am a member of my son's school's leadership team and our SLT was able to bring our school's blended learners in person 5 days a week. This was a huge success as our title 1 school also has a 30% special education population. My social work background is working with homeless youth, so I also have a strong understanding of the issues facing students in temporary housing and foster care. I also launched a parent led survey when I realized that Learning Bridges Programs were turning away students with disabilities. The survey caught the attention of the New York State Attorney General Leticia James and was key in advocating for DOE to change its Learning Bridges policy to better serve students with disabilities. I believe in equity, the majority of students with disabilities in NYC public schools are youth of color and a large majority qualify for free and reduced lunch. Both SWD and ELL students face the highest inequity gaps in our public-school system. There are also issues related to language access that have been exacerbated by a poorly planned remote and hybrid school reopening plan. There are still students lacking learning devices and access to internet. I would use my time on the CEC25 and/or the CCSE to ensure that equity is always considered. I am not afraid to address the elephant in the room and I will speak up for students who need a loud voice at the table. I believe in transparency and commitment to students and families. Our students and teachers deserve more support for remote and blended learning and the DOE needs to make sure that schools have the resources they need to guarantee student success. I would be a voice for our most vulnerable students and would move to guide change that creates and solidifies equity for these students. I am a fierce advocate but at the end of the day I am also a mom. I understand what this pandemic has been like for our children, the toll it has taken on all of us. I help my kid with his homework and read him Harry Potter each night at bedtime and we wish for a school year without
Irhina De La Cruz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X085	YES	NO	I submitted a statement and it was not accepted. I prefer to provide statement in person due to ongoing technical difficulties.
Rosanna De La Rosa	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X236	YES	NO	
Sofia De Leon Tobal	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X086	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Sofia De Leon Tobal	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X121	NO	NO	
Nicole Dean	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M145	NO	NO	
Nicole Dean	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M145	YES	NO	
Teresita Dehoyos	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R065	YES	NO	Serving on an Education Council is important to me because I believe that every child deserves the best education possible. As a parent of a child receiving services, I have first hand experienced how children can slip through the cracks without the benefit of information available to them. I have spent 7 years wearing the hats of different roles for the PTA as a Treasurer, Correspondence Secretary and President. Daily, I am helping those who are underserved in their communities by directing them to services and programs that would be beneficial to them and their families. With this experience as well as being in a leadership role, I believe I would be an asset to a team working together towards a common goal.
Jazmin Del Valle	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	06M178	YES	NO	I am currently the IEP member for CEC6 and wish to continue to serve as a council member. I want to continue to be the voice for students, families with Special needs, and IEPs. I currently am on the PTA and SLT for my son's school at PS178. I am also in the PTO for my daughter's headstart program in PS152. I love to be a part of my community that I was born and raised in by immigrant parents. I know the struggles with having my parents not knowing the English language and having a child with an IEP for Autism. I have helped with coming up with ideas for the school and see them come to life. As I learn more and more about what it means to be in a council I wish to come up with more ideas for the community and see them come alive as well. I think it is very important to have an IEP representative to ensure the best education they can get. I have also served the community in many other ways by volunteering in any way I can.
Maritza Delvalle	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X061	NO	NO	
Maritza Delvalle	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X061	YES	NO	
Maricelle Denny	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M276	YES	NO	Thank you for the opportunity to run for an education council set. I am excited to have a chance to make an impact on NYC public schools and our children's education and well-being. I have been in NYC for 15 years and I have observed how much our children and parents alike rely on our public school system and the wonderful staff and educators that work so hard every day. I've dedicated my career to working with financial services institutions, improving operations, process efficiencies and driving down cost. I would now love to use my skills from management and technical consulting to help our schools that benefit and impact our community.



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Anna Di Bona	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75R373	YES	NO	As the mother of two children on the spectrum, I have seen firsthand how the NYC schools serve the children of this city with special needs. I am grateful for the effort that teachers and para professionals have put in to help my sons grow. However, I also have children in private school, one of them autistic. I see how much more organized and thorough private school has been versus the public education system. It was disheartening. I want to be part of a movement that brings more resources to teachers, so we can get everyone on equal ground, no matter what school system they are in. I look forward to working with everyone to achieve great things in the years to come!

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Celenia Diaz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	13K282	YES	NO	My name is Celenia Diaz, and it would be an honor to obtain a seat in the Education Council. I am a mom of 10-year-old and two-year-old twins. With their premature birth, they are currently receiving early intervention services, speech, OT/PT. Much time is consumed during my children's ABA therapy as well. Children with special needs deserve better. New York City can become an even better place when we start focusing on the needs of those children who live here. They are the foundation to a better world and the beacon of hope for those struggling through this. A goal of mine is to help change the system of NYC's Department of Health and Education for children with special needs. State officials ultimately decide if a child is eligible for these services through Early Intervention, yet some families are unaware of their rights and as a parent of special needs children me, and without advocacy, they were cut short of services vital to their development and growth. These services must be entirely in favor of the child's needs and concerns of the family. It should not be determined due to criteria established from outdated sources in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. During COVID-19, teachers faced challenges and expected more children to fall victim to their education slide. Disparities associated with poverty, racism, and other structural inequalities are nothing new. Still, variations in susceptibility to illness and response to treatment underscore the differential impacts of health adversity. As COVID-19 impacts many healthcare sectors, it is essential to understand the origins of early intervention disparities. Social distancing rules have made it difficult for therapists and special educators to follow mandated goals on Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for children requiring many hands-on approaches to aid them. Variations of insensitivity to the environment would be another aspect of the child's development that is hindered by guidelines placed on the pandemic, which has kept many children receiving facility-based services. During the pandemic, children within this age frame have not received adequate services and are prone to difficult learning boundaries to hurdle through later on. At present, many infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities are going unidentified and are not accessing early intervention due to political agendas surrounding the pandemic. Delays in support will continue to fall short of serving all families in need until policymakers invest substantial resources to improve service coordination, provision, provider availability, training, and oversight. I trained to become an IEP Parent Member, and with my oldest son having an IEP, I had to learn to be a strong advocate for him. It was a complicated process, even
Kristina Diaz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q151	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Rosa Diaz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M171	NO	NO	My name is Rosa Diaz. I am a parent of 3 kids in grades PreK son, 4th grade daughter with IEP and an 8th grade son at PS171 Patrick Henry Preparatory. I am a Parent Leader for my kids' school and have been supporting and volunteering for several years. I started serving as a Community Education Council in 2019 and it has been an honor to be a voice for parents in D4. I have gained so much knowledge and will continue to support all schools in D4. Currently I work part-time as a Paralegal and a Commissioner of Deeds for Law Offices of Terilli & Tintle and have extensive legal experience and knowledge which has helped several families. I am a Community Ambassador for East Harlem Community Partnership and before the Pandemic we held community meetings, events and shared resources such as Food Pantries, Childcare Services, Mental Health Organizations, Immigration Services, Parent Advocacy, etc; for East Harlem families of all ages. During the Pandemic, we saw a high need of food insecurity amongst our families and decided to help families with food distribution and together with other organizations, we were able to pack food items and safely distribute them to hundreds of families. Lastly, I support Dr. Collins and CADA PASO, a non-profit organization which promotes Healthy living and eating for all families of all ages. We have several walks per year to learn about each other, current community concerns and how to help each other. Wanted to take the opportunity to thank parents for the time in reading my statement.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Rosa Diaz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M171	YES	NO	My name is Rosa Diaz. I am a parent of 3 kids in grades PreK son, 4th grade daughter with IEP and an 8th grade son at PS171 Patrick Henry Preparatory. I am a Parent Leader for my kids' school and have been supporting and volunteering for several years. I started serving as a Community Education Council in 2019 and it has been an honor to be a voice for parents in D4. I have gained so much knowledge and will continue to support all schools in D4. Currently I work part-time as a Paralegal and a Commissioner of Deeds for Law Offices of Terilli & Tintle and have extensive legal experience and knowledge which has helped several families. I am a Community Ambassador for East Harlem Community Partnership and before the Pandemic we held community meetings, events and shared resources such as Food Pantries, Childcare Services, Mental Health Organizations, Immigration Services, Parent Advocacy, etc; for East Harlem families of all ages. During the Pandemic, we saw a high need of food insecurity amongst our families and decided to help families with food distribution and together with other organizations, we were able to pack food items and safely distribute them to hundreds of families. Lastly, I support Dr. Collins and CADA PASO, a non-profit organization which promotes Healthy living and eating for all families of all ages. We have several walks per year to learn about each other, current community concerns and how to help each other. Wanted to take the opportunity to thank parents for the time in reading my statement.
Rosanna Diaz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	06M173	YES	NO	As a mother of a child attending public school with a disability its extremely important for me to continue to advocate for him and other children. Advocating for children with and without disabilities is very important because our children deserve the best education possible,
Justina Diego	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M258	YES	YES	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Elvy Dieguez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	16K309	YES	NO	I am currently an SLT member and I am Secretary of PTA at PS309, It would be a great honor serving the Education Council. Growing up in a single parent household my mother would never have time or wasn't able to attend any event I had at school, she was never involved as making ends meet was a priority. No judgment at all towards her but as an adult now I understand the sacrifices made, as a parent I do not want my child to feel like shes not priority, I want to be there, I want to be the support to her and her school the best way I can. I have a child with an IEP and I want to be involved in everything. Even though I am already a part of the SLT & PTA, I would like a chance to be able to do more for my school and community. I want to be able to serve in any area that I can be of service. I am a super fast learner, I like bringing ideas to the table, and I also like to achieve all goals set. I am a single parent, I work from home full time BUT I also have the capacity to assist the Education Council if given the chance. I am Bi-lingual- I speak, read and write fluently in English and Spanish. I also have pretty good computer skills. I am thankful for the opportunity and forever graceful if granted the opportunity. THANK YOU
Johanna Dominguez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M007	YES	YES	We must as parents seek all the tools so that our children have a better future full of possibilities, grow in minority sectors, where obtaining "the easy" is faster, we must teach our children that hard work has its fruits, so I try to wrap myself in school activities that can strengthen the self-esteem and disbursement of my children.
Ranya Douglas	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q227	YES	NO	Hello to all reading this statement! My name is Ranya Douglas and I am a mother first and a certified ABA therapist. I work very closely with children on and off the spectrum and have become well versed in the educational process affecting both sides of the fence. I have been an advocate for the equalization of education for all children in NYC but Queens especially. The borough of Queens seems to lack in resources that are needed for the families and children attending the public school system. These resources are major tools needed for the success of our children's education. There are so many things that have changed for the better within the department of education since I myself attended the public school system. Yet there is still a need for change in several different areas that i would like to advocate for on the parents behalf and see brought to fruition. I believe in us the parent and the knowledge and expectations we have for the system we have entrusted to procure and educate the minds we have created.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Lauren Driver	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K321	YES	NO	I understand that joining the CEC is a thankless, anonymous job but also, a job of service. I have been a mother for over 13 years in the Kings County public school system and I am very aware of the issues surrounding redistricting, early intervention and CPSE, UPK, shared building space between schools, and screening vs non-screening. I have been around for all of it but I have not taken a firm stance on any of it. I think each circumstance is unique and requires debate and input. If I am elected I would represent the voices of those who care enough to stand up and voice their opinions.
Octavia Dunkin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	05M154	YES	NO	Hello my name is Octavia Dunkin, I am currently involved as a parent in my child's school. Involving PTA/ SLT and I am interested in this position because I would like to make a difference in this district as a parent leader.
Lisa Duval-Lindo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M289	YES	NO	I have a son in the NYC Public School system with an IEP. As a mother I want to ensure that every child is getting the attention that he/she needs to thrive. It is very important that our children education is tailored to meet their needs. This way they can become healthy, happy, fulfilled, and kind productive individual in our society. Education is Key! qualify teachers in the classroom is Key! I'm a small business owner and I live in New York City.
Ayotilewa Efuniyi	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R009	YES	NO	As a Mother of Children with disabilities in District 31, and District 75 schools. There is need for more representation, and inclusion of all races and classes. More help, training, information and resources to Families and Children with IEP's will help children with disabilities attain the growth they need and give them the Independence they need to be able to thrive in their Community.
Ayotilewa Efuniyi	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75R373	YES	NO	As a Mother of Children with disabilities in District 31, and District 75 schools. There is need for more representation, and inclusion of all races and classes. More help, training, information and resources to Families and Children with IEP's will help children with disabilities attain the growth they need and give them the Independence they need to be able to thrive in their Community.
Somaia Elghity	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K121	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Mariam Eliasu	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X700	NO	NO	<p>I am a parent of a child with an IEP for over 2 years now. I have gone through Early Intervention, CPSE and CSE to make sure my son receives the services he needs to maximize his potential. I am a people person who believes our children are the future generation. My love for Education comes from my passion for learning and helping people. I have a Bachelors in Business Administration. I also recently just completed a Certificate in Education. Hopefully, I get to pursue a Masters in Public Administration this Fall (August, 2021) as I have applied to Baruch College and John Jay College. I am waiting for a decision from these two schools. Last year, I wanted to pursue a Masters degree in Social Work (MSW). I got accepted at NYU and Columbia University, but I could not finance my education even though I got about \$15, 000 merit based scholarship. The pandemic coupled with a newborn crippled our finances as a family. This year, I researched into Public Administration, and I realized I can do more with an MPA than an MSW degree. That is why I applied for an MPA this year to these low cost Universities with exceptional scholarship. As an immigrant, I have helped so many people in my community apply to schools for their children. I have also linked some to adult education services to improve their English literacy. I have spoken to parents in order for them to understand the IEP process and to request for it if the child needs it. It is looked down upon in my community for your child to have an IEP. However, that stigma is gradually eroding because I am an advocate for my son and other kids who need it. Serving on an Educational Council will help put my expertise to good use. This will also help me bring parents and community members' perspectives to the board so we can see how better we can enhance the barrier between parents and educators. Additionally, I communicate and relate well with others which makes people feel comfortable to confide in me. This is a special and a needed skill on the board. This skill will be enhanced and opinions and views of the council can be communicated to parents in the best way possible. I have served as the President for the Parent Committee at my younger son's school. I am currently the Vice President for the Center Parent Committee at Help II Morris. I am also an active member of the Parent Committee at Success Academy. Also, I am active in the community where I have worked with teenagers from broken homes and children with developmental delays. I am currently a founding member of our local Parents Circle where we encourage one another to use positive discipline strategies with our children. Education means everything to me. Educating a child means giving him or her the necessary skills to survive this ever changing world. With a good education, a</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Mariam Eliasu	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84X380	YES	NO	I am a parent of a child with an IEP for over 2 years now. I have gone through Early Intervention, CPSE and CSE to make sure my son receives the services he needs to maximize his potential. I am a people person who believes our children are the future generation. My love for Education comes from my passion for learning and helping people. I have a Bachelors in Business Administration. I also recently just completed a Certificate in Education. Hopefully, I get to pursue a Masters in Public Administration this Fall (August, 2021) as I have applied to Baruch College and John Jay College. I am waiting for a decision from these two schools. Last year, I wanted to pursue a Masters degree in Social Work (MSW). I got accepted at NYU and Columbia University, but I could not finance my education even though I got about \$15, 000 merit based scholarship. The pandemic coupled with a newborn crippled our finances as a family. This year, I researched into Public Administration, and I realized I can do more with an MPA than an MSW degree. That is why I applied for an MPA this year to these low cost Universities with exceptional scholarship. As an immigrant, I have helped so many people in my community apply to schools for their children. I have also linked some to adult education services to improve their English literacy. I have spoken to parents in order for them to understand the IEP process and to request for it if the child needs it. It is looked down upon in my community for your child to have an IEP. However, that stigma is gradually eroding because I am an advocate for my son and other kids who need it. Serving on an Educational Council will help put my expertise to good use. This will also help me bring parents and community members' perspectives to the board so we can see how better we can enhance the barrier between parents and educators. Additionally, I communicate and relate well with others which makes people feel comfortable to confide in me. This is a special and a needed skill on the board. This skill will be enhanced and opinions and views of the council can be communicated to parents in the best way possible. I have served as the President for the Parent Committee at my younger son's school. I am currently the Vice President for the Center Parent Committee at Help II Morris. I am also an active member of the Parent Committee at Success Academy. Also, I am active in the community where I have worked with teenagers from broken homes and children with developmental delays. I am currently a founding member of our local Parents Circle where we encourage one another to use positive discipline strategies with our children. Education means everything to me. Educating a child means giving him or her the necessary skills to survive this ever changing world. With a good education, a
Nashwa Elsayed	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K192	YES	NO	
Isaura Encarnacion	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X004	NO	NO	
Isaura Encarnacion	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X004	YES	YES	
Isaura Encarnacion	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X004	NO	YES	



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Odessa Engles	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q080	NO	NO	Hello, my name is Odessa Engles I am a mother of three but two attend school with the Department of Education. I believe that I am a good candidate because I have been a very active parent in the district 28 School Community. I have serviced as PTA President for two years, and treasurer. I'm also a parent member of the School Leadership Team. I am head chair on Title One and my current role of Co-chair for District 28 Title One. I am not a stranger to leadership and teamwork. I would like to make a difference in a district for all the children in district 28. I would like to be an added voice for all the parents of district 28.
Odessa Engles	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q080	YES	NO	Hello, my name is Odessa Engles I am a mother of three but two attend school with the Department of Education. I believe that I am a good candidate because I have been a very active parent in the district 28 School Community. I have serviced as PTA President for two years, and treasurer. I'm also a parent member of the School Leadership Team. I am head chair on Title One and my current role of Co-chair for District 28 Title One. I am not a stranger to leadership and teamwork. I would like to make a difference in a district for all the children in district 28. I would like to be an added voice for all the parents of district 28.
Yokasta Eralte	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X392	NO	NO	Hello parents, staff, and board members, If I receive the opportunity to serve as an Education Council I will be dedicated to determining and advancing strategic development, delivery and evaluation of programs that are comprehensive. I am enthusiastic in serving to delivery professional development, activities, services and programs that are geared towards DOE's core competencies. I am also a mother who is responsible for two children that go to a district 8 school called Bronx Delta. My children are in 2nd and 3rd grade and one of them has an IEP. Kind regards, Yokasta Eralte
Yokasta Eralte	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X392	YES	NO	Hello parents, staff, and board members, If I receive the opportunity to serve as an Education Council I will be dedicated to determining and advancing strategic development, delivery and evaluation of programs that are comprehensive. I am enthusiastic in serving to delivery professional development, activities, services and programs that are geared towards DOE's core competencies. I am also a mother who is responsible for two children that go to a district 8 school called Bronx Delta. My children are in 2nd and 3rd grade and one of them has an IEP. Kind regards, Yokasta Eralte
Karen Escobar	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q021	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Maria Esteves	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R009	NO	NO	Hello, my name is Maria Esteves, and currently a stay-at-home mom to my daughter in first grade and my son a third-grader in the NEST program. I have also become a full-time remote learning teacher to both of my children who have not seen the inside of a school since February 2020. I am an active participant in my children's school PTA and also volunteer my time whenever possible at P.S. 9 on Staten Island. I currently volunteer and lead my daughter's Girl Scout Troop, which I established at P.S. 9 as well as a volunteer with my son's Cub Scout pack. I also handled my son's OWPDD services with self-direction and am familiar with the IEP process with the DOE. I am interested in continuing and furthering my involvement in the Department of Education as a parent who is concerned with its direction and the future education of my children. I am eager to become more involved and strongly feel that a parent's voice should be the driving force in our children's education. Thank you for the opportunity and hopefully, I can join in that collaboration.
Maria Esteves	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R009	YES	NO	Hello, my name is Maria Esteves, and currently a stay-at-home mom to my daughter in first grade and my son a third-grader in the NEST program. I have also become a full-time remote learning teacher to both of my children who have not seen the inside of a school since February 2020. I am an active participant in my children's school PTA and also volunteer my time whenever possible at P.S. 9 on Staten Island. I currently volunteer and lead my daughter's Girl Scout Troop, which I established at P.S. 9 as well as a volunteer with my son's Cub Scout pack. I also handled my son's OWPDD services with self-direction and am familiar with the IEP process with the DOE. I am interested in continuing and furthering my involvement in the Department of Education as a parent who is concerned with its direction and the future education of my children. I am eager to become more involved and strongly feel that a parent's voice should be the driving force in our children's education. Thank you for the opportunity and hopefully, I can join in that collaboration.

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Marian Faltaoos	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K264	YES	NO	I believe the school system is designed in general to people who were born in the country, however, more than 80% of this community are immigrants and new comers. While you can see some attempts to integrate the immigrant families in the system; the work which needs to be done is far beyond those attempts. The new families might need: 1- An extensive orientation program about the education system in general, its goals, objectives, the way it works,...etc 2- What is expected from the child in each educational year; in terms of reading levels, comprehension, writing, math,...etc 3- For IEP students; the parents need even more classes of what to expect, what's being done in the school, how and when they say "NO" for any more services when they deem so. 4- The allocation of the school budget; the families have to have a vote in this budget and they ways the school allocate those resources. 5- Families with special needs; like; non-working parents, single-parents, parent with economic hardships.....etc. How to get the education system more sensible for those cases since kids are experiencing different patterns of life that are different than the mainstream. 6- Ways and forms of how to connect the school with the community outside; the small business, the street vendors, the parks,...etc So I believe I would want to work with you on those suggestions and looking for ways to improve them going forward.
Gina Felix	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M364	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Shirley Fennessey	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M413	YES	NO	<p>AS the mother of two children with IEPs who has experienced challenges obtaining accommodations, we need clear paths to mental health support for children and families in our schools. Hybrid and remote learning have further exacerbated the inequities in services for children and families . Early data shows a tremendous instructional loss with at least a 50% increase in students at these grades needing additional instructional supports. When we return to in person school, there will be a greater number of students needing mental health support as they transition back into social settings or who don't feel ready to return at all. As educators, it is our obligation to assist students and families for reintegration into a traditional or school setting. There is a need for early identification and intervention at all levels from PreK3 including universal dyslexia screening, crisis prevention and intervention training, and coordinated communication between health care professionals, schools, families and agencies. Supporting ENL students, children in temporary housing and children in poverty needs to be at the forefront in our shifts in education policy, and there is a tremendous problem of access. No parent should have to hire outside legal help in order to receive testing or needed support service. During my 5 years on Community Board 3 I have served as Executive Vice Secretary and as a member of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee; and I sit on the Community Advisory Board at Mt. Sinai Beth Israel.. I would like to leverage my experiences to help others. I am bilingual in English and Spanish and will be able expand the voice and reach with Spanish speaking families. I have the unique advantage of having strong relationships with schools, districts, parent coordinators, superintendents and executive superintendents that will allow me immediate access to families and schools. These unique experiences and connections will allow for a greater reach and ability to achieve desired outcomes for our children. Como madre de dos niños con IEPs que ten ia desaf ios para obtener adaptaciones, creo que necesitamos apoyo en la salud mental para nuestras familias. El aprendizaje h ibrido y remoto ha exacerbado a un más las desigualdades en los servicios para los niños y las familias. Los primeros datos muestran una tremenda pérdida de instrucción con al menos un 50% de aumento en los estudiantes que necesitan apoyos educativos adicionales. Cuando regreseemos a la escuela en persona, habrá una mayor cantidad de estudiantes que necesitarán apoyo de salud mental mientras regresan a entornos sociales o que no se sienten listos para regresar en absoluto. Como educadores, es nuestra obligación ayudar a los estudiantes y sus familias a reintegrarse a un</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Shirley Fennessey	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M485	YES	NO	<p>AS the mother of two children with IEPs who has experienced challenges obtaining accommodations, we need clear paths to mental health support for children and families in our schools. Hybrid and remote learning have further exacerbated the inequities in services for children and families . Early data shows a tremendous instructional loss with at least a 50% increase in students at these grades needing additional instructional supports. When we return to in person school, there will be a greater number of students needing mental health support as they transition back into social settings or who don't feel ready to return at all. As educators, it is our obligation to assist students and families for reintegration into a traditional or school setting. There is a need for early identification and intervention at all levels from PreK3 including universal dyslexia screening, crisis prevention and intervention training, and coordinated communication between health care professionals, schools, families and agencies. Supporting ENL students, children in temporary housing and children in poverty needs to be at the forefront in our shifts in education policy, and there is a tremendous problem of access. No parent should have to hire outside legal help in order to receive testing or needed support service. During my 5 years on Community Board 3 I have served as Executive Vice Secretary and as a member of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee; and I sit on the Community Advisory Board at Mt. Sinai Beth Israel.. I would like to leverage my experiences to help others. I am bilingual in English and Spanish and will be able expand the voice and reach with Spanish speaking families. I have the unique advantage of having strong relationships with schools, districts, parent coordinators, superintendents and executive superintendents that will allow me immediate access to families and schools. These unique experiences and connections will allow for a greater reach and ability to achieve desired outcomes for our children. Como madre de dos niños con IEPs que tenia desafios para obtener adaptaciones, creo que necesitamos apoyo en la salud mental para nuestras familias. El aprendizaje h ibrido y remoto ha exacerbado a un más las desigualdades en los servicios para los niños y las familias. Los primeros datos muestran una tremenda pérdida de instrucción con al menos un 50% de aumento en los estudiantes que necesitan apoyos educativos adicionales. Cuando regreseemos a la escuela en persona, habrá una mayor cantidad de estudiantes que necesitarán apoyo de salud mental mientras regresan a entornos sociales o que no se sienten listos para regresar en absoluto. Como educadores, es nuestra obligación ayudar a los estudiantes y sus familias a reintegrarse a un</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Lisa Fernandez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	05M362	YES	NO	My name is Lisa Fernandez-Cruz and I am the mother of a child who has been in Special Education in the city of NYC from the age of three until currently, at 13, in both District 75 schools and in inclusive community schools. I have seen first hand the struggle to educate all children with disabilities and be able to meet their social and emotional needs at school. I believe my years of navigating this terrain, through four different schools here in NYC, and in lower performing districts, gives me a great viewpoint to serve on this council and to work towards bettering the education system for our children with IEPs. I am currently a guardian grade rep at my sons school and volunteered through the years at school. I thank you for your considerations.
Lisa Fernandez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	06M187	NO	NO	My name is Lisa Fernandez-Cruz and I am the mother of a child who has been in Special Education in the city of NYC from the age of three until currently, at 13, in both District 75 schools and in inclusive community schools. I have seen first hand the struggle to educate all children with disabilities and be able to meet their social and emotional needs at school. I believe my years of navigating this terrain, through four different schools here in NYC, and in lower performing districts, gives me a great viewpoint to serve on this council and to work towards bettering the education system for our children with IEPs. I am currently a guardian grade rep at my sons school and volunteered through the years at school. I thank you for your considerations.
Tara Figueras	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	13K674	YES	NO	My name is tara figueras and I am a mother of five with all different age groups. I have two high school children which one has an IEP and I have two elementary school children. My youngest isn't in school yet. I have experience with being on both the pta/slt. I loved working in the schools and participating in the activities and events. I have strongly enjoyed being involved with the slt team in my kids school for it was fun and I enjoyed sharing my ideas and helping the school improve for the children. I know how hard it is during this covid-19 pandemic we are living in with one minute schools are open and then the kids are doing home remote. I feel if elected I can use my experience to help parents teachers and staff through this time with the children's emotional stress and the lack of being able to socialize with their peers and teachers how they are used to. I want to help and build in our community to come as one to help our children.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Tara Figueras	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	16K243	NO	NO	My name is tara figueras and I am a mother of five with all different age groups. I have two high school children which one has an IEP and I have two elementary school children. My youngest isnt in school yet. I have experience with being on both the pta/slt. I loved working in the schools and participating in the activities and events. I have strongly enjoyed being involved with the slt team in my kids school for it was fun and I enjoyed sharing my ideas and helping the school improve for the children. I know how hard it is during this covid-19 pandemic we are living in with one minute schools are open and then the kids are doing home remote. I feel if elected I can use my experience to help parents teachers and staff through this time with the children's emotional stress and the lack of being able to socialize with there peers and teachers how they are use to. I want to help and build in our community to come as one to help our children.
Tara Figueras	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K348	NO	NO	My name is tara figueras and I am a mother of five with all different age groups. I have two high school children which one has an IEP and I have two elementary school children. My youngest isnt in school yet. I have experience with being on both the pta/slt. I loved working in the schools and participating in the activities and events. I have strongly enjoyed being involved with the slt team in my kids school for it was fun and I enjoyed sharing my ideas and helping the school improve for the children. I know how hard it is during this covid-19 pandemic we are living in with one minute schools are open and then the kids are doing home remote. I feel if elected I can use my experience to help parents teachers and staff through this time with the children's emotional stress and the lack of being able to socialize with there peers and teachers how they are use to. I want to help and build in our community to come as one to help our children.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Carmen Figueroa	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	07X296	YES	NO	I have been a school Volunteer for the past years and I am learning to navigate the system and how for my son that have a IEP and have ADHD ,OCD, Anxiety ,Autism Spectrum Disorder and of other children as well and I am very aware of issue and situation I can help parents and grandparents as well to understand with issue which they are not clarity with situation they have being having with their own .I consider myself worthy of the position just because I have deal with many issue that I understand parents and grandparents with children with IEP or Special Needs because beside my son with IEP I have grandchildren with IEP and Cerebral Palsy and Cerebellar Ataxia so I know the Rules and Protocol when children has IEP( Individual Education Programs) and I have being a C.E.C 7 since 2014 to present and Parent Association President at M.S 296 for 2 year and now I am the Parent Association Secretary for M.S.. 296 bx. and I sit at the S.L.T (School Leadership Team ) , Parent Member IEP I love to Advocate For Children .And I was a ECC Member as well (Education Council Consortium) . And I have a Certificate for NEW YORK from HON. Letitia James and a Certificate for IEP Parents Member to Advocate Children with IEP and I was President of the President Council At district 7 BX .
Charlton Forbes	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X111	NO	NO	
Charlton Forbes	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X111	YES	NO	
Judith Forte	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	23K156	YES	NO	
Judith Forte	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	23K284	NO	NO	
Tabitha Foster	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	19K171	YES	NO	My name is Tabatha Foster and I am the parent of three children attending school in New York City. I have children in grades 4th, 7th and 8th grade. Two of my children have received IEP services that I believe has helped them to improve in their academics in school. I believe that serving on an Education Council is important to me because I like to share my experiences as a parent of children attending school with others. I also believe I can help with other ideas that can help other children achieve success in school. I have a schedule that is available I believe that can be beneficial on the Education Council.
Sabrina Francis	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M063	YES	NO	
Alma Francisco	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q016	YES	YES	
Alma Francisco	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q061	YES	YES	



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Liza Frazer	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M035	YES	NO	My daughter was fortunate to be a student in New York City's District 2 since the third grade. Her trajectory and persistence in trying achieve above average results in despite having the now too common mental health disorder, anxiety, has taught me that not everyone has an advocate or mentor in their pursuit for quality education. As she approaches the end of the eleventh grade, I find it very important that I become a voice and an instrument of advocacy for those who come behind her. That our experiences may become a stepping stone for those that like her, dream of an Ivy League education despite the limitations of mental health. On behalf of every parent that has encountered this illness and it's different stages, I pledge to be a voice for helping our children achieve their highest potential in academia. Nonetheless, helping to form well rounded professional and citizens of our great City. With COVID19 almost in our rear mirror, and the mental health aftermath left behind by the pandemia, we must be more efficient and effective than ever in helping our youth achieve their highest potential. Thank you in advance for your support. I look forward to embrace the needs of our youth and help identify areas in which we can add support to promote the success of our education. Respectfully, Liza Frazer
Michele Frederick	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q499	NO	NO	Hello, My name is Michele Frederick-Dye. I am running for a position on the Community education council. I currently have (3) children that attend PSIS 499, ranging from grades 1-5. I am very eager and excited to be running for a position on this committee, as I have a lot of ideas for our school and how we can better help our parents throughout the school years. It would be my honor to be apart of such a wonderful committee, to bring more reassurance to our parents and children so that we can make our school year better as we begin.
Michele Frederick	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q499	YES	NO	Hello, My name is Michele Frederick-Dye. I am running for a position on the Community education council. I currently have (3) children that attend PSIS 499, ranging from grades 1-5. I am very eager and excited to be running for a position on this committee, as I have a lot of ideas for our school and how we can better help our parents throughout the school years. It would be my honor to be apart of such a wonderful committee, to bring more reassurance to our parents and children so that we can make our school year better as we begin.

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Catherine Freeland	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	06M187	YES	NO	In 2014, our family moved to NYC from Denver, Colorado when our daughter was in first grade. We had concerns about potential learning disabilities before we moved, and they were confirmed when we arrived and she received DOE testing. She repeated a grade, received intense support from her school, and we sought out free resources. We also got her tested outside the school district and augmented with outside interventions. We explored the possibility of pulling her from the ICT classroom and advocate placing her in a specialized school. However, we realized that she would be best served in the public school. She received remarkable support from all of her teachers - from first grade and into seventh grade. I feel passionate about making the process more transparent for families about the various steps and the options they have before them. We had the privilege of being a two-parent unit, English speakers, and the time to put into learning the various ins and outs of the system. So many children are challenged because their families don't have the same opportunities to explore for their children. Education is an essential foundational element for the rest of a child's life. Learning differences can not and should not be a roadblock for a meaningful life. Children's external sense of self is first formed in schools. As a society, we must ensure that we support every child regardless of their learning needs.
Anna Friedman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K024	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Todd Friedman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q046	YES	NO	<p>Hi, I am Todd Friedman and I've been a member of CEC 26 since 2019. My son and daughter are twins and are in the third grade at PS 46. My wife and I have been strong advocates for them, since before their first day of school. For the past two years I have been advocating for all of our children the same way I have done for my own. I believe that no parent, especially here in District 26, one of the best school districts in NYC, should have to fight for a good education and the needed services for their children ,and I'll continue to advocate for you so that you won't have to fight for your child's needs. I am also a professor of Finance and Economics at St. John's University. I come from a family of educators , my wife is a teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing right here in District 26. My mother was a teacher in NYC for 43 years and many other members of my family are teachers and professors. I understand the importance of a good education. Having served my community as a parent advocate leader these past two years, I have become greatly aware that we the parents of District 26, must be given more say in our children's education. As part of the PTA Executive Board (2nd Vice President) and School Leadership Team (SLT), PS 46 already knows I am someone who can always be counted on. As of this moment, the CEC is limited to bringing awareness of issues to the community and make the DOE aware of what we need and want as a community. The current pandemic has been used to make changes without our consent and behind our backs. While the CEC and the District 26 Superintendent and her team have a great relationship, these changes are being made by The Mayor's and Chancellor's office. This can no longer be allowed. In addition to unwanted changes, now it seems that there are also plans to take funding away from District 26, even though we have already been underfunded for years. What's the result? Many of our children will not get the best education and/or the services they need to succeed. I am saddened to say that the DOE does not negotiate or coordinate with CEC 26, who are advocating for all of the District 26 families' wants and needs. So why come back? Simply said, experience is vital in everything we do. It is one of my primary goals to work with our state legislators to create laws so that the DOE and the Mayor's office must work together with parent advocacy groups like the CEC before making changes to the way our children are taught and the way the school system works. I am not only the parent of a child with an IEP, I am also a Dyslexic with ADHD. I understand from a first person perspective the hurdles and challenges that many children face every day --I was that child. As I stated, District 26 and its CEC have a great relationship. We have a wonderful Superintendent and district team as</p>

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Tyeast Fullerton	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K770	YES	NO	<p>I am the parent of three children, two who are graduates of the public school system and one who is still attending public school. My children have been members of the three diverse populations that make up our school community (general education, special education &amp; gifted/talented). As an active participant in my children's schools I believe that parent participation plays an important role in children's educational success. Serving on an Education council will allow me to positively participate in and impact not only my child but thousands of children's educational journeys. It would be an honor for me to help support and represent the thousands of hard-working, caring families, especially those who may be unable to serve on counsels themselves. In addition to holding a degree in education, I have taught 3K via a city contract with DOE; served as director of youth development for a settlement house; owned and operated a daycare; and managed/taught the webinar training program for a successful nonprofit. I currently serve as PTA President and SLT team member at P.S. 770 and have previously served as Secretary, Vice-President and President at my two eldest children's elementary &amp; high schools. As a lifelong advocate of positive youth development, I have volunteered at several nonprofits that academically tutor, mentor and physically engage youth. Most importantly, I am invested in the continued betterment of our education system and will whole-heartedly devote my time and attention to the advancement of all students that I represent. I hope you invest in the best by voting me onto the Education Council.</p> <p>~Tyeast Fullerton</p>
Jamiliah Furlonge	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X103	YES	NO	
Janay Futrell	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	16K681	YES	NO	<p>I'm passionate about running for the special education councils i think kids with iep's need people to fight for them so they have a fair opportunity in school remote has been very hard on each student in many different ways . No kid should have a working lunch these kids need a break. Remote needs to be revamped in many ways.</p>
Alicia Gallardo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q016	YES	NO	
Alicia Gallardo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q016	NO	YES	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Elaine Garcia	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X141	YES	NO	Elaine Garcia Bronx, New York Thank you for considering my application to serve on an Education Council. I have lived in Bronx, NY since 1990. My daughter was born in 2005 and has always gone to public school in our Riverdale neighborhood. As a working mother having my daughter in a safe and positive school environment is very important. From early on in my child's education I made sure I was at every Parent/Teacher conference, every classroom or school wide celebration or any event the school invited parents to. PS 81 knew I was Gabriella's mom for all the right reasons! When the school need me, I was there and when I needed them, they were always available for me. My positive experience with NYC schools should be every parent's experience if not better. I want to offer my perspective as a parent in the NYC schools, my expertise as a working professional and my compassion as a proud member of the Puerto Rican community. Professionally, I am a Human Resources Director with 20+ years of hospitality and health care experience. As much as I pride myself in being a dedicated parent, I am also a dedicated professional. I am able to build strong and lasting professional relationships through my uncompromising levels of integrity and authenticity. I know how to use resources or create new ones to get the best results and be able to move beyond obstacles. I am collaborative, cooperative and always a sound decision maker. In 2009 I enrolled in the Adult Degree Program at Lehman College and graduated in 2018 with my BA in Sociology. For the past 2 years I have worked with Project L.I.G.H.T. at the College of Mt. Saint Vincent in Riverdale as a volunteer to teach ESL to the students desiring to learn English. I am dedicated to education and grateful for the opportunity to serve an Education Council in any capacity. I thank you again for your time and consideration.
Maria Garcia	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X251	YES	NO	
Maria Garcia	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X352	YES	NO	
Martha Garcia	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	05M161	YES	YES	Because I will like to help the parents and students when they need help with special education. I am 2 girls with specials education I know how they feeling.

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Samantha Gardner	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	14K685	YES	NO	<p>I am a parent who once attended District 14 schools and now my daughters attend a high school in District 14. District 14 is a community that I been part of for many years. I previously served on the Title I Committee and currently I'm a PA President at El Puente High School for Peace and Justice which I served for many years. I am a very involved and concerned parent who values the importance of education and community building. I organized school events where the parents had an opportunity to get involved with their child/children and one event that was a huge success was Family Night. The students engaged with their parents to learn about their history and made a family tree. There were different activities that the parents and students was involved in made a difference and wanted to do more parent/child engagement activities. I also reached out to different organizations to speak with parents on the issue of LBGTQ, safe sex, and GED for the parents that lacked in education. I conducted surveys of what the parents would like to see within the high school and how they can be more involved with their child/children education. Two barriers that was effecting some parents was their language (non-English speakers) and not having a babysitter to attend PA meetings. I worked with the principal to see how these barriers can be turned around so these parents can be connected. I also worked in DOE schools as a para and a substitute teacher. As a substitute teacher I worked with special education, students with learning disabilities who had IEP's. Working with this population I saw that some teachers didn't care about the student's learning and it was about the higher functioning students that the teachers worked more with. Although the teachers had to follow a plan of teaching, I followed it but did more as well to help these students achieve. I felt that they were put on a back burner for the students to drown. The parents were happy that I was more involved with their child learning and included the parents how they can work with their child as well. I believe in equal opportunity for all children that are attending DOE schools, whether it be enrichments programs, creative and accessible after school programs as well as effective and passionate teaching methods resulting in improved math and reading scores. I also worked with several organizations as a counselor with people who have different medical ailments, such as mental health issues as well as substance abuse. I am currently attending graduate school to obtain my master's in social work and to gain employment again within DOE as a social worker. I feel that the administration could be a bit stronger in the school system. Learning about the educational initiatives within the district and citywide, contributing to</p>

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Carol Gaston	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X308	YES	NO	As the mother of a 12-year-old child with an individualized education plan I feel as though the parents and children's needs are not being met by the current remote learning curriculum. Serving on an education Council, Will allow me to speak with the parents and children both and represent what we need in terms of tools and curriculum to ensure all children are still productive while in remote learning. As we all know remote learning has been a challenge and I feel us as the parents are undervalued and the children are cut short of a solid education. We need more representation so that the teachers union will no longer dictate how and when our students learn inside of a school building. The department of education needs working class parents to represent what we need from the school system and what our children need. A lot of us Are essential workers battling this pandemic during the day and battling the department of education in the evening when we come home from work. We are parents but we still need support. We need understanding. Our children need more than dictated computer assignments. They need love care compassion and understanding all of which the system is lacking at this time. Excessive amounts of schoolwork do not ensure that the children are retaining information. These children need to be college bound and educated and I want to see to it that they are all successful.
Nicola Gayle	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K098	YES	NO	Good day, My name is Nicola Gayle. I am social worker who has been working over 10 years in social services within the community. I am an immigrant parent to 2 children who both have current IEPs. I am fortunate that both my children are able to access their services both in school and remotely. I would like to see all children have the opportunity to access their serives while they are learning remotely. I would like to see teachers having access to cleaning supplies, printing paper, and other educational resources for their classroom. As a parent I do believe in the partnership between parents and teacher so that children can gain the necessary knowledge they need to succeed. I do believe that I am the right candidate to join an Education Council. Thank you

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Nicola Gayle	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K100	YES	NO	Good day, My name is Nicola Gayle. I am social worker who has been working over 10 years in social services within the community. I am an immigrant parent to 2 children who both have current IEPs. I am fortunate that both my children are able to access their services both in school and remotely. I would like to see all children have the opportunity to access their services while they are learning remotely. I would like to see teachers having access to cleaning supplies, printing paper, and other educational resources for their classroom. As a parent I do believe in the partnership between parents and teacher so that children can gain the necessary knowledge they need to succeed. I do believe that I am the right candidate to join an Education Council. Thank you
Asya Gelfand	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K321	NO	NO	I am a born and bred Brooklynite! Midwood High School is my alma mater! I have three kids, two in the public school system. I am focused on making sure our kids get the best education, services, and are part of communities that have a culture of caring. I like to listen and learn. I love technology. I am a pragmatist, not an ideologue. Our city is in for some tough times, recovering from the pandemic. Having great and functional schools is core to making Brooklyn and NYC a place for all types of families.
Asya Gelfand	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K321	YES	NO	I am a born and bred Brooklynite! Midwood High School is my alma mater! I have three kids, two in the public school system. I am focused on making sure our kids get the best education, services, and are part of communities that have a culture of caring. I like to listen and learn. I love technology. I am a pragmatist, not an ideologue. Our city is in for some tough times, recovering from the pandemic. Having great and functional schools is core to making Brooklyn and NYC a place for all types of families.



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Andrea Giammattei	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M400	YES	NO	My name is Andrea Giammattei. I am applying for the City Council on Special Education and the City Council for High Schools. I have a 30 year career in the fields of education, special education, and mental health. I am driven by a sense of duty to make things better for our kids and families. I want to start with this statement. I am currently the Chief of Educational Services for the historic Northside Center for Child Development for its remedial clinic. I am passionate about the work we do, and I want to help reach more students and have a broader impact. I have seen first hand the challenges that our students have in our schools for many reasons. At Northside we serve deserving vulnerable students primarily from the areas of Harlem and East Harlem who lack access and have learning and mental health challenges. I have provided recent seminars for families including the topics of resources and strategies for remote learning, and how to navigate the special education system. I have the privilege to lead a team of specialists who provide free tutoring to our deserving students. We also provide educational consultations, evaluations, and advocacy. We partner with other New York City schools both public and charter. I have a long history communicating and collaborating with other schools and community agencies for the best interests of our children for my entire career. I have breadth and depth of knowledge and experience in the fields of education and mental health working with diverse populations. I have worked as a child/adolescent/family therapist as the leader of treatment teams guiding the treatment plans, coordinating in-home interventions with school interventions, and with support from other community-based agencies. I am well-versed in evidence-based practices in education and in mental health and I've been in leadership roles in the organizations for which I have participated. We need people who understand the science behind what works, and who know how to design inclusive systems. Inclusion yields access and access yields equity. I have worked in our public schools here in New York City. I'm aware of their great opportunities and strengths, as well as their challenges. I have ideas about how to create policies and action plans to make the changes we need. I have also spent time collaborating with schools on behalf of students and families. I would like to be involved in collaborating with a larger team and affecting change and policy for more children in our New York City school system. The pandemic certainly highlighted areas of inequity for children of color, children living in poverty, and children with special needs. All of our students need our very best right now. I have dedicated myself to serving children and families for the last 20 years as a professional. I am also the mother
Galina Glinik	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K485	YES	NO	

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David Golovner	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X141	YES	NO	Good day! I am David Golovner, a single father and the primary care giver for two children. one of whom, my daughter, is starting college in the fall after a k-12 career in private special education schools, and the other, my son, is now a seventh grade student at RKA 141 in our neighborhood, Riverdale in the Bronx. I myself am a graduate of PS. 24 and JHS 141 and Bronx Science, more than a few year ago.
Pamela Gomez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R057	YES	YES	
Erika Gonzalez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X086	NO	NO	My name is Erika Gonzalez. I am an active Parent Leader and Advocate in District 10, in the Bronx. I serve my community and borough by being part of parks organizations and doing volunteered work. As for Education, I am an SLT and CEC 10 member and the President of a Parents Association. I speak 3 languages English, Spanish and French. I am currently learning Bengali to better communicate with families. I make a strong candidate because I can advocate for children with special needs and students in General education. I will provide helpful resources and tips to fulfill families needs overall. Any knowledge and time that I have I will make sure to share it to strengthen and educate the community. This opportunity can help me teach Parents how to advocate for their own children. Which I think is very important. -Mi nombre es Erika González. Soy una madre l ider y defensora activa en el Distrito 10, en el Bronx. Sirvo a mi comunidad y al distrito formando parte de organizaciones de parques y haciendo trabajo voluntario. En cuanto a la educación, soy miembro del SLT y del CEC 10 y presidenta de una Asociación de Padres. Hablo 3 idiomas: inglés, español y francés. Actualmente estoy aprendiendo bengal i para comunicarme mejor con las familias. Soy una candidata fuerte porque puedo defender a los niños con necesidades especiales y a los estudiantes de educación general para que obtengan lo que merecen y necesitan. Voy a proporcionar recursos utiles y consejos para satisfacer las necesidades de las familias en general. Cualquier conocimiento y tiempo que tenga me aseguraré de compartirlo para fortalecer y educar a la comunidad. Esta oportunidad puede ayudarme a enseñar a los padres cómo abogar por sus propios hijos. Lo que creo, que es muy importante.

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Erika Gonzalez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X086	YES	NO	<p>My name is Erika Gonzalez. I am an active Parent Leader and Advocate in District 10, in the Bronx. I serve my community and borough by being part of parks organizations and doing volunteered work. As for Education, I am an SLT and CEC 10 member and the President of a Parents Association. I speak 3 languages English, Spanish and French. I am currently learning Bengali to better communicate with families. I make a strong candidate because I can advocate for children with special needs and students in General education. I will provide helpful resources and tips to fulfill families needs overall. Any knowledge and time that I have I will make sure to share it to strengthen and educate the community. This opportunity can help me teach Parents how to advocate for their own children. Which I think is very important. -Mi nombre es Erika González. Soy una madre líder y defensora activa en el Distrito 10, en el Bronx. Sirvo a mi comunidad y al distrito formando parte de organizaciones de parques y haciendo trabajo voluntario. En cuanto a la educación, soy miembro del SLT y del CEC 10 y presidenta de una Asociación de Padres. Hablo 3 idiomas: inglés, español y francés. Actualmente estoy aprendiendo bengal i para comunicarme mejor con las familias. Soy una candidata fuerte porque puedo defender a los niños con necesidades especiales y a los estudiantes de educación general para que obtengan lo que merecen y necesitan. Voy a proporcionar recursos utiles y consejos para satisfacer las necesidades de las familias en general. Cualquier conocimiento y tiempo que tenga me aseguraré de compartirlo para fortalecer y educar a la comunidad. Esta oportunidad puede ayudarme a enseñar a los padres cómo abogar por sus propios hijos. Lo que creo, que es muy importante.</p>

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Laquanya Goodman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K249	NO	NO	<p>As a working parent of twins one receiving services since the age of 4, I understand the importance of advocating for your children but not always being able to attend every meeting. I've had to rely on my relationship building skills to remain in the know of all things in my children's education. I've found that advocating for my children has also help other children. I want to ensure all children are well represented and their parents are well informed no matter their time constraints. This is imperative as we all need to be in the know and in control of our children's education and that comes with being informed to make the best decision possible. I previously held a leadership position for my children's Preschool, it was very rewarding ensuring policies and procedures we're family structured and had the children educational growth and development in mind. If selected to join the 2021 Education Council I will advocate for all children with the same passion and tenacity like I advocate for my own. I've been educated in the New York City public school system, earning my Bachelors' in Public Administration from CUNY's John Jay College and later earning my Master's in Public Administration from Metropolitan College of New York. New York City public school systems has educated some of our nations greatest leaders. I will do all I can to ensure we continue to educate of greatest assets, Our Children; while easing the minds of parents knowing someone who understands their challenges are advocating for them as well.</p>

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Laquanya Goodman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K249	YES	NO	As a working parent of twins one receiving services since the age of 4, I understand the importance of advocating for your children but not always being able to attend every meeting. I've had to rely on my relationship building skills to remain in the know of all things in my children's education. I've found that advocating for my children has also help other children. I want to ensure all children are well represented and their parents are well informed no matter their time constraints. This is imperative as we all need to be in the know and in control of our children's education and that comes with being informed to make the best decision possible. I previously held a leadership position for my children's Preschool, it was very rewarding ensuring policies and procedures we're family structured and had the children educational growth and development in mind. If selected to join the 2021 Education Council I will advocate for all children with the same passion and tenacity like I advocate for my own. I've been educated in the New York City public school system, earning my Bachelors' in Public Administration from CUNY's John Jay College and later earning my Master's in Public Administration from Metropolitan College of New York. New York City public school systems has educated some of our nations greatest leaders. I will do all I can to ensure we continue to educate of greatest assets, Our Children; while easing the minds of parents knowing someone who understands their challenges are advocating for them as well.
Shi Tasia Goodner	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X723	YES	NO	
Joyette Gordon	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	18K617	YES	NO	I have served on the SLT at my son's elementary school, and participated in the PA at his middle school. I attempted to serve as the PA Vice President my son's first year of High School, however, due to lack of participation the PA did not continue. I did serve on the SLT at that time, and I am currently serving on the SLT as well. Serving on an Education Council is important for me to give back to the community, as I will have the opportunity to utilize my professional experience and experience in effectuating change on a large scale while working with other stakeholders. I hold a Doctorate on Clinical Psychology, I am on the Executive team at a non-profit mental health organization, supervising approximately 85 professional staff members in the social services field, and I am an Independent Contractor as an Adjunct Assistant Professor and Field Instructor for CUNY - Hunter College, Silberman School of Social Work graduate program. Based on my education and experience, I would bring a unique voice to the team which can be beneficial to the community, the school district, and most importantly, the students we serve.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Wende Gozan Brown	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K278	YES	NO	<p>My name is Wende Gozan Brown, and I am the parent of a student in District 22, Brooklyn. I am interested in joining an Education Council because of the breadth and depth of COVID's impact on our children, both educationally and social-emotionally. We all need to find ways to serve our City during this time, and I can't think of a better way to do that than getting involved in the education space. In electing me, you would find a representative who is committed to educational equity. As the parent of a child with an IEP, I am adept at advocating for specific educational needs, and also collaborating constructively with service providers and school leadership. I am committed to understanding all points of view, and maximizing opportunities for students amid the very real constraints that the DOE faces. When my child was in elementary school in District 13, I was a class parent for several years. I organized group school supply buys, chaperoned field trips, and instituted Morning Table, an opportunity for parents to volunteer in the cafeteria before the start of school so that younger children--who could be overwhelmed by noise and older students--had educational activities to occupy their time. I strove to create a spirit of inclusivity among parents within our classroom; noting the impact of gentrification on our student body, I also become involved in the school's anti-racism trainings. A nonprofit communications professional, I currently work for an education network in East Harlem, and volunteer weekly as a hall monitor and substitute kindergarten teacher. Prior to that, I worked for an organization that fought for foster care reform nationwide, which included advocating for educational consistency, and fighting an overreliance on psychotropic medications that prevented children from accessing their education. If elected, you would find that I am honest, a straight-shooter and a hard worker. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a councilperson; thank you for considering my candidacy.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Debra Gray	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	23K156	YES	NO	I have served in and out of my community for many years. I currently sit on the Community Education Council for District 23. The position I currently hold is the parliamentarian for the CEC23. The Vice President of Mothers and Mentor program. My titles for P.S. 156 school consist of SLT, PA Treasurer, and Title 1 Co-Chair. I have served as the juridical delegated district 55. I was the first PTA President of Diploma Plus High School when they opened. I have many other great talents that I provided within the community. I volunteered in the classroom helping the students to read and write. The reason why I am applying to join back on the CEC 23 because I love to work with the students, parents, and community. There is so much out there for our schools and community that I would like to be a part of a team that is well rounded to work with in order to accomplish goals.
Debra Gray	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	23K323	YES	NO	I have served in and out of my community for many years. I currently sit on the Community Education Council for District 23. The position I currently hold is the parliamentarian for the CEC23. The Vice President of Mothers and Mentor program. My titles for P.S. 156 school consist of SLT, PA Treasurer, and Title 1 Co-Chair. I have served as the juridical delegated district 55. I was the first PTA President of Diploma Plus High School when they opened. I have many other great talents that I provided within the community. I volunteered in the classroom helping the students to read and write. The reason why I am applying to join back on the CEC 23 because I love to work with the students, parents, and community. There is so much out there for our schools and community that I would like to be a part of a team that is well rounded to work with in order to accomplish goals.

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Celia Green	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K369	YES	NO	<p>Greetings Everyone. Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Celia Green. I am the mother of six sons. Four of my sons have an ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder ) diagnosis. I am currently serving as a Brooklyn Representative on the Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS). I am also a former Member of the Citywide Council for District 75. While helping to navigate my family's journey through the NYC Public School System I have had the pleasure of serving on many Parent Associations and Parent Teacher Associations. In various capacities I have been a Recording Secretary, a Financial Secretary, a Treasurer, a Vice President , a President and a Title 1 Chair. I have also served on the Presidents Councils for District 13, District 75 and the Borough High Schools Presidents Council of Brooklyn. While on these Presidents Councils I served on CPAC (the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council ) as the Representative for each of these Councils in different years. I am a NYS IEP Parent Member and I am also affiliated with Several Organizations including the Arise Coalition , New York Communities for Change and Community Food Advocates &amp; Lunch 4 Learning Parent Caucus. I enjoy helping Students and their Families learn about their educational rights. I would also like to advocate for more Inclusive Opportunities for all students. I am a Team Player and like helping Parents build their capacity. Although I enjoy advocating on behalf of Students and their Family's I do prefer encouraging and supporting Parents as they endeavor to advocate on their own behalf. I believe in bringing the solution to any problem that you wish to fix. On that note I am quite willing to roll up my sleeves and get to work. I strive to leave things better than how I found them. Thank you for your consideration. I will look forward to working with the Council soon. Sincerely, Celia Green</p>



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ralph Greer Jr	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q048	YES	NO	<p>February 2, 2021 Dear Sir/Madam I am confident that my skills are a perfect match for this position. I would bring a broad range of skills, including: 2 years shop steward (NYCHA) 1- year acting safety associate (NYCHA) 15 years' experience as a computer literacy and HSE/TASC instructor with 8 years contracted by NYCHA. 12 years' experience dealing with Employee Records, Timesheets, Payroll, etc. Certified Gang Specialist from the National Gang Center. Trained by Chicago CeaseFire/S.N.U.G./Cure Violence in intervention, prevention and conflict mediation. Provided street intervention to help stop gun/gang violence for 10 years. Provided Violence Intervention, Reduction to gang members and at-risk teens/young adults. Provided over 5000 hours of HIV/AIDS &amp; STD awareness workshops. Provided over 5000 hours of Anger Management, Bullying, Hidden Dangers of Drugs, Fatherhood, and Gang Awareness workshops. Provided Conflict Mediation and Crisis Intervention to high risk individuals for the past 15 years. Provided support services to help participants find Jobs, Schools, Training Programs, Housing, Social Services, and other alternatives for behavior change. 15 years' experience mentoring to teens and young adults. I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this position with you. If you have questions or would like to schedule an interview, please contact me by phone at (646) 245-4168 and or by email at rercsinc@gmail.com. I have enclosed my resume for your review, and I look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Ralph Greer, Jr.</p>
Alexander Guerrero	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M079	YES	NO	<p>I Apply because I believe in the importance of parent engagement, involvement, and commitment in my kids education. I have served and still serving in the School Leadership Team for a few years now. I have participated in PA/PTA activities in which I was a board member and or volunteer. I believe in the public schools system for this city and I know I can be a great addition to the board. Thank you very much...</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Violeta Guevara	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	07X223	YES	YES	<p>Hola ,buenas tardes, mi nombre es Violeta Guevara,mi hija atiende la escuela preparatoria Ms./Hs 223 en Bronx New York 10451. Ella cursa el 10th grado y tiene un plan de estudio individualizado( IEP). Desde que. Omenzaron la escuela mis hijos me.he involucrado en su education academica,he participatory en la asociacion de Padres de familia, como presidenta, tesorera,president,, enndiferentes tiempos,también he participado en el equipment de liderazgo ,he tomado el puesta de president en el consejo de education del dialumnas, al que pertenece mi hija. Dos años anteriores ,en el 2018 forme parte del equipo de Arete, donde se imparten talleres para enriquecimiento de los alumnos. He hecho talleres en la misma localidad para impartir clases de crochet y tejido a los Padres de.familia, pero lo que más me ha llevado a estar siempre involucrada en la educion de los niños es,porque me parece que cada niño es diferente y cada uno tiene necesidades diferentes,muchos Padres no saben que hay infinidad de programas y la ayuda necesaria,as i como también, no saben que todos tiene derechos a recibir las terapias y programs adecuados ,para su transition y asi obtener exito en las metas que se propongan. Me gusta trabajar para mi Comunidad pero sobre todo poder informar e intruir a los Padres a que nada es impossible. Si me dan la oportunidad de pertener al consejo de educacion, haré lo mejor de mi ,para dar sported a cada una de las familia con un niño especial. Ningun niño tiene que quedarse atras. Muchas gracias por la atención prestada.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Shonali Gupta	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M276	NO	NO	<p>My objective while running for the CEC is to leverage my skills, experience and time to continue to add value to my District and Special Education community. I have served as Treasurer of my school PTA for the last two years. Having worked with the Executive Board, this time gave me a deep insight into the workings of the educational system, the challenges that schools face and how funding works. This experience strengthened my resolve to work together with key stakeholders to advocate for our schools and communities to provide for the resources we need and be able to give every child in New York City a quality education, based on each child's unique needs. I am actively involved in my local community. I serve on the Board of my condominium building, giving a voice to thousands of neighbors. I firmly believe in giving back to the environment and preserving our neighborhood, which is why I also volunteer at our Community garden and work as a Horticulture volunteer with the local parks authority. Outside of my volunteer activities, professionally, I work in Financial services and have lived and worked in Manhattan for the last 16 years. Such roles have helped me develop a wide and strong network across people in many different fields of work. I believe this can add immense value while working as part of the CEC. I have two children at our neighborhood school and am actively involved in both of their individual class communities. I am a champion of diversity at our school and have helped organize parent workshops and talks. I serve on the school's Technology committee where I work together with a core group of teachers and other parents to help develop an engineering and design curriculum to provide enrichment to our students. We are working not only to support the school's existing technology needs but also to challenge the boundaries and see what more we can include in our STEM curriculum. Thank you for considering me for a seat on the Educational Council. I look forward to working with a group of esteemed and well regarded council members.</p>

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Shonali Gupta	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M276	YES	NO	My objective while running for the CEC is to leverage my skills, experience and time to continue to add value to my District and Special Education community. I have served as Treasurer of my school PTA for the last two years. Having worked with the Executive Board, this time gave me a deep insight into the workings of the educational system, the challenges that schools face and how funding works. This experience strengthened my resolve to work together with key stakeholders to advocate for our schools and communities to provide for the resources we need and be able to give every child in New York City a quality education, based on each child's unique needs. I am actively involved in my local community. I serve on the Board of my condominium building, giving a voice to thousands of neighbors. I firmly believe in giving back to the environment and preserving our neighborhood, which is why I also volunteer at our Community garden and work as a Horticulture volunteer with the local parks authority. Outside of my volunteer activities, professionally, I work in Financial services and have lived and worked in Manhattan for the last 16 years. Such roles have helped me develop a wide and strong network across people in many different fields of work. I believe this can add immense value while working as part of the CEC. I have two children at our neighborhood school and am actively involved in both of their individual class communities. I am a champion of diversity at our school and have helped organize parent workshops and talks. I serve on the school's Technology committee where I work together with a core group of teachers and other parents to help develop an engineering and design curriculum to provide enrichment to our students. We are working not only to support the school's existing technology needs but also to challenge the boundaries and see what more we can include in our STEM curriculum. Thank you for considering me for a seat on the Educational Council. I look forward to working with a group of esteemed and well regarded council members.
Sophia Gurley	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M347	YES	NO	My Name is Sophia Gurley. I have experience working with children who have educational issues within the school system. I also have a child who has an IEP. My role in the council will be to get children as their families proper services needed for their specialty. I'm also looking to help create or recreate more sustainable creative programs within our school systems for the children, regenerate after school programs and fresh school lunches. I also would like to recreate the PTA systems to operate with the low income families to help with issues outside of the school that makes it difficult to get their child to school on time, with a successful attendance system. My reason for applying is to better assist families in need and create a system so that all of our children recognize why it is important to have an education.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Lisa Hafeez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	27Q155	NO	NO	I have two children in the NYC public school system, a first and a third grader. My third grader has an IEP and throughout the years, I have been advocating for her educational needs. When my daughter started Kindergarten, I started volunteering for all the PA fundraisers. I was invited to join the SLT just after a few months of being part of the school community, and I have been a member since. I am currently the PAC Chair and I have held the PA President title. I was also the PA Treasurer at my daughter's school last year, a D 75 school. She is now back at my local community school. As a Parent Member, I have guided several parents in getting the best placement for their child to meet their educational goals and needs. I am currently a member on the Education Council and was voted in by my Council Members in June of last year. During this time I attended CPAC, PEP, Family Engagement and other neighboring District meetings to further my knowledge of what is going on in the educational system in our city. If I had the opportunity to serve on the Council again, my main focus will be to improve parent engagement in our school district. It takes a lot of dedication to serve on a Council and I would welcome the opportunity to serve our District and our families for another term.
Lisa Hafeez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	27Q155	YES	NO	I have two children in the NYC public school system, a first and a third grader. My third grader has an IEP and throughout the years, I have been advocating for her educational needs. When my daughter started Kindergarten, I started volunteering for all the PA fundraisers. I was invited to join the SLT just after a few months of being part of the school community, and I have been a member since. I am currently the PAC Chair and I have held the PA President title. I was also the PA Treasurer at my daughter's school last year, a D 75 school. She is now back at my local community school. As a Parent Member, I have guided several parents in getting the best placement for their child to meet their educational goals and needs. I am currently a member on the Education Council and was voted in by my Council Members in June of last year. During this time I attended CPAC, PEP, Family Engagement and other neighboring District meetings to further my knowledge of what is going on in the educational system in our city. If I had the opportunity to serve on the Council again, my main focus will be to improve parent engagement in our school district. It takes a lot of dedication to serve on a Council and I would welcome the opportunity to serve our District and our families for another term.

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Marwa Hafez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K209	YES	NO	Education should not be a privilege that is given only to the children of high-income families. I believe education is necessary to bring up the best talent in every child regardless of her/his background. We can not depend on the public school alone to help our children succeed. We have to do our part as parents and get involved as much as we can to deliver our children's education. My child was diagnosed with language impairment and attention deficit disorder when he was in the first grade. I got him tested, and he started to get the services he needed one year later due to the limited resources. The testing facilities suggested that I enroll him in a private school to get the help he needed to succeed. However, the tuitions were way out of our budgets, and we could not afford the educational lawyer either. So, we decided to accept what school services have to offer him. To be candid, I do not see much improvement. So, I started to read more about special education so I can support him at my end. I tutor him constantly to meet his academic standard. I understand the school's limitation that they can not give him the attention he needs. I volunteered to help as much as I can in my community to help other children with similar circumstances. I tutor children in public schools and volunteer in New York Cares to help other children. Instead of blaming others for not providing enough help, we can all put our heads together and come with a plan to help our communities. Children with special needs should not be held back due to their struggles. They need the right individuals around them to guide them through their educational journey. There is no such thing as a smart child and dumb child. There is only one who has an opportunity in a great school and did not have resource limitations. Let us give all children equal opportunity to better education. I will be honored to serve as an educational council for 2021 to apply what I learned with my son and help other children in need.
Sasha Hampton Scharf	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R444	YES	NO	I am the proud daughter/grand-daughter of professional New York state educators and a mother of 3 sons in the NYC school system. I have a child in elementary, middle and high school so I'm well informed of what goes on accross the board. I have been actively involved with my children's education since day one. I started serving as the parent Vice President and then President for my local Early Head-Start Program. In 2012, I was presented with the Outstanding Voulnteer award by Headstart. I am the founder of a FB support group for parents of New York state school children and we currently have close to 500 active members. It's important for me to serve on the NYC Education Council because it will provide a platform for me to voice the concers, wants and needs for children and parents like myself. Thank you!

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Rob Harper	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M343	YES	NO	I am a single parent (dad) navigating through a school system to make certain my son gets the quality education he deserves. I must say, never in a million years did I think I would be doing this by myself, but such is the case. That said, I am sure there are other parents faced with similar challenges. I want to work with them and empower them to find the voice to speak up for their sons and daughters and be heard. Working together we can ensure our future generation is well educated.
Lashon Harrison	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M500	YES	NO	My name is Lashon Harrison I am running for a seat on the Education Council because concerned with the future of public school education in our district. Being able to gain a seat on the CEC is an opportunity for me to represent public school parent, it the perfect opportunity to have a say in how our public school children are educated. Being able to hold a seat on the CEC "Under the law", is probably the only place an average parent has access to the people "on top", those people being the "DOE, "We have to figure out and be involved in our children fully returning to school while Covid-19 is still a major part of our lives. Our voices need to heard on how we feel about the processes they are putting in effect. How will these processes affect our children and our families. They people making theses decisions are on the outside looking in and making decisions for us and our children without our input. You need a parent who is going to step up and out to represent you and your children, I am that person! I have a child who has an IEP and I have been fighting for him to be given the education he requires and deserves for years. I have been happy with the outcomes of my engagements with the Schools and the DOE, because I fight for what i believe is right and what my kids should and have the right to have and that is a "Great education". I know if I can do it for my son I can can do it for your children. I believe I have what it takes to have our voices heard and to make the DOE respond, take action, and give our Public school children the education they deserve and are entitled too!. Get out and Vote, Lets give our kids the voice and education they all deserve!

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Lashon Harrison	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M146	YES	NO	<p>My name is Lashon Harrison I am running for a seat on the Education Council because concerned with the future of public school education in our district. Being able to gain a seat on the CEC is an opportunity for me to represent public school parent, it the perfect opportunity to have a say in how our public school children are educated. Being able to hold a seat on the CEC "Under the law", is probably the only place an average parent has access to the people "on top", those people being the "DOE, "We have to figure out and be involved in our children fully returning to school while Covid-19 is still a major part of our lives. Our voices need to heard on how we feel about the processes they are putting in effect. How will these processes affect our children and our families. They people making theses decisions are on the outside looking in and making decisions for us and our children without our input. You need a parent who is going to step up and out to represent you and your children, I am that person! I have a child who has an IEP and I have been fighting for him to be given the education he requires and deserves for years. I have been happy with the outcomes of my engagements with the Schools and the DOE, because I fight for what i believe is right and what my kids should and have the right to have and that is a "Great education". I know if I can do it for my son I can can do it for your children. I believe I have what it takes to have our voices heard and to make the DOE respond, take action, and give our Public school children the education they deserve and are entitled too!. Get out and Vote, Lets give our kids the voice and education they all deserve!</p>



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Tisha Hatch-Loveless	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	05M148	YES	NO	Hello My name is Tisha Hatch-Loveless I'm a proud parent of three children two who have attended Public School and one who went to Charter and is now back Public School. I've served on PTA for all three through to JHS. I feel I would be a good candidate to serve on the Education Council because we need services and changes made for our children and teens. We need to address bullying, suicide and depression, especially during this pandemic. I've had parents reach out to me concerning their children and changes they have seen. I help refer them to various places for help. We can't keep ignoring the signs and doing nothing. We need to bring in weekend activities such as Double Dutch and Roller Skating two pass times I'm sure children and teen would enjoy. We need to start financial literacy while they're young so they won't go into debt while in college. We also need to consider bringing back Trade Schools college isn't for everyone but they shouldn't go into debt with these fly by night "trade colleges. We used to have them, bring them back. I currently sit on the board of The Louella Hatch Democratic Club (named after my mom, a community activist). I also attend my local precinct meeting 46pct. I current work at Bronx DA Office.
Doletha Hayes	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X219	YES	NO	Hello my name is Doletha Hayes I would like to be back on the educational Council because I like to inform parents of everything that's going on inside of the district and outside of the district I think there is a new Foster know about that IP and how we can make sure I kids are getting the best education they can inside of the hospital when they're sick having me the opportunity to make sure that they're getting that education regardless of that in or out of school thank you
Edward Hayes	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K423	YES	NO	As an advocate of education and a minority father of a 12th grader, I am convinced that the Core Curriculum model should be eradicated forthwith. It's evident that the Black and Brown students are benefiting from this indoctrination of the watered-down Eurocentric educational system. This is not an indictment of the educational system in totality, rather an awakening of the social consciousness, and a need to revamp the system. The NYC school system have dynamic and dedicated administrative staff and teachers that really care about the student body. But they haven't gotten their fair share of support on all Fronts. And the parents have to share in the ineptitude of the structural breakdown of what can be. If elected as a council member I will devote my time and energy to help find solutions, but I will report what I witnessed fairly and accurately. DOE has to reevaluate how it dispenses its resources so that the teachers have what they need to provide a quality education for our children.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Paullette Healy	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K259	NO	NO	<p>I have had the great honor of being the Recording Secretary on the Citywide Council on Special Education for the last 2 years . I am the mother of 2 children in middle school both with IEPs and am active on the PTA and SLT at both children's schools. I have been advocating for parents for over 10 years especially in regards to special education. For the past 2 years I, along with memebbers of my Council, have worked to implement changes in policy such as extended services for our students aging out who suffered regression due to restrictions related to COVID, holding districts accountable for high non-compliance issues and fighting for language and translation access for documents related to IEPs. I have testified in front of City Council, the Panel for Education Policy(PEP), Town Halls and Public forums on behalf of the 256,000 students in special education. I have spoken on panels and seminars on the needs of our students with disabilities hosted by Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Councilman Justin Brannan, Councilman Carlos Menchaca, Assemblywoman Mathylde Frontus and Senator Andrew Gounardes. I am currently the Chair of the District 20 Title 1 District Parent Advisory Council(DPAC)which supports schools and families that serve communities struggling with poverty along with being the Brooklyn Representative for the District 75 District Leadership Team that supports PTAs and SLTs in their fight for resources, programs and access within their respective neighborhoods. I volunteer with numerous organizations and committees that fight for equity, access and representation for all children attending our school systems such as ARISE, PRESSNYC, AQE, CEJ and BLM in schools to name a few as well as sit on the Citywide Equity Committee led by Deputy Chancellor Adrienne Austin. I have spent my life raising awareness and action to support our families and have raised my own children to utilize their voice in order to impliment change in our schools and our world. I strive to build a platform for parents to learn about their rights, where to go for help if they struggle with home insecurity, job loss, food insecurity and healthcare as well as providing resources on remote learning, literacy programs, behavior challenges and mental health support . I have assisted countless families through the IEP process and continue to do that citywide on a daily basis. The years ahead will be arduous as we find solutions to address the effects COVID has had on our families in NYC and planning the necessary supports in order to effectively transition our students back into in person learning when it is safe will be a monumental feat. I am prepared for the work ahead and will always fight for parents to have a seat at the table. It has been an immense privilege serving the families of NYC and</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Paullette Healy	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K053	YES	NO	<p>I have had the great honor of being the Recording Secretary on the Citywide Council on Special Education for the last 2 years . I am the mother of 2 children in middle school both with IEPs and am active on the PTA and SLT at both children's schools. I have been advocating for parents for over 10 years especially in regards to special education. For the past 2 years I, along with memebbers of my Council, have worked to implement changes in policy such as extended services for our students aging out who suffered regression due to restrictions related to COVID, holding districts accountable for high non-compliance issues and fighting for language and translation access for documents related to IEPs. I have testified in front of City Council, the Panel for Education Policy(PEP), Town Halls and Public forums on behalf of the 256,000 students in special education. I have spoken on panels and seminars on the needs of our students with disabilities hosted by Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Councilman Justin Brannan, Councilman Carlos Menchaca, Assemblywoman Mathylde Frontus and Senator Andrew Gounardes. I am currently the Chair of the District 20 Title 1 District Parent Advisory Council(DPAC)which supports schools and families that serve communities struggling with poverty along with being the Brooklyn Representative for the District 75 District Leadership Team that supports PTAs and SLTs in their fight for resources, programs and access within their respective neighborhoods. I volunteer with numerous organizations and committees that fight for equity, access and representation for all children attending our school systems such as ARISE, PRESSNYC, AQE, CEJ and BLM in schools to name a few as well as sit on the Citywide Equity Committee led by Deputy Chancellor Adrienne Austin. I have spent my life raising awareness and action to support our families and have raised my own children to utilize their voice in order to impliment change in our schools and our world. I strive to build a platform for parents to learn about their rights, where to go for help if they struggle with home insecurity, job loss, food insecurity and healthcare as well as providing resources on remote learning, literacy programs, behavior challenges and mental health support . I have assisted countless families through the IEP process and continue to do that citywide on a daily basis. The years ahead will be arduous as we find solutions to address the effects COVID has had on our families in NYC and planning the necessary supports in order to effectively transition our students back into in person learning when it is safe will be a monumental feat. I am prepared for the work ahead and will always fight for parents to have a seat at the table. It has been an immense privilege serving the families of NYC and</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Victoria Heredia	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q102	NO	NO	I am a retired NYC Paramedic. Served the city for twenty years. One of the hardest jobs is being a mother. Children with special needs require even more. I wish I had been better informed of all the services offered by the DOE and how to maneuver through the systsem. If given the oppurtunity I want to offer that to parents and the children. With our present struggles its even more important to assure that all our kids are given all that we can to help them in every way.
Victoria Heredia	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q102	YES	NO	I am a retired NYC Paramedic. Served the city for twenty years. One of the hardest jobs is being a mother. Children with special needs require even more. I wish I had been better informed of all the services offered by the DOE and how to maneuver through the systsem. If given the oppurtunity I want to offer that to parents and the children. With our present struggles its even more important to assure that all our kids are given all that we can to help them in every way.
Noemi Hernandez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X028	YES	NO	I was waiting for an opportunity like this. I personally feel that parents association is very limited, just like the teachers have limited voices to push for a better change. As a mother of a child with special needs, I am appalled by how difficult it is to get information and when you do figure it oit all on your own the processes are overwhelming. I want to make changes for my son, to ensure he can thrive in the future long after I am gone.
Yerlin Herrera	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X214	YES	YES	
Yerlin Herrera	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X214	YES	YES	
Yerlin Herrera	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X214	NO	YES	
Arianny Herrera Ramirez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X316	YES	YES	
Erika Hinton	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K348	YES	NO	
Benerkis Hogando	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X279	YES	NO	Hola mi nombre es : BENERKIS Hogando soy madre de un niño de educacion especial conocida como IEP. Quiero ejercer in puesto ya que muchos padres estan en la misma situacion que y en mucho casos no tiene la ayuda or orientacion suficiente de hacer un proceso or no saben que es un IEP. Y eso como padres no hace sentir frustrados y mas cuando no tenemos la informacion suficiente . Para mi seria un honor servir a mi comunidad muchas gracias.
Meredyth Holmes	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q560	YES	NO	As a mother of a 12yr old boy and a yoga teacher I value the merits of having a good education for our kids. My biggest priority is to advocate for more American history education in our district. As it is my firm believe that grounding our kids in a foundation of proper knowledge of our history will make them more informed voters and better human beings. And I will always be open and available to discuss any parents concerns and ideas.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Swann Htat	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q162	YES	YES	
Ellene Hu	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M184	YES	NO	<p>A solid public education has given me confidence, hope and peace &amp; happiness (Confucius). And as a parent of a NYC public school student, I want to ensure that my and every other NYC child has the same types of opportunities to build resilience, expand their horizons and gain the skills to be successful in life. That means providing varied, inspiring and challenging experiences so they are prepared for whatever this world throws their way. My child attends PS184M Shuang Wen, a dual-language (Mandarin-English) and Title 1 school with a large group of Asian immigrant parents, in District 1. I'm a member of the Shuang Wen SLT and work with District 1 Superintendent Chan as a Parent Ambassador for remote learning. When schools were still open, I volunteered in the school library as I could help with both English and Mandarin titles. The pandemic has shone a spotlight on NYC public school education system, both good and bad. However, the solutions presented have failed to address the root causes of how to prepare our children for life or how to give them the tools for a better life. To paraphrase a national leader I respect: We should be considering what should be and what can we do to be a part of it. In short, how do we provide our kids with the learning opportunities that will give them the best chance of success? Providing all students with a strong academic foundation to have facts and tools to be able to analyze issues and come up with solutions that can be acted on. Showing students how to leverage their strengths and challenge themselves at what they're good at and/or for what they have a passion. Offering a breadth knowledge and experience from fellow students, teachers/school staff and the greater community to learn how to think outside the box.</p> <p>I'm running for CEC1 because I want to represent and serve our diverse community, with the many different needs of our children and fellow parents, as well as help to include the voices of Asian immigrant families who may not be familiar with the NYC public school system. As a member of CEC1, I would work with the rest of the council to assess where District 1 is at this point in the pandemic, work to find solutions for our community and communicate District 1's needs to the DOE to improve the NYC public school system.</p>
Wendi Huestis	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M040	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Lilian Hunter-Segbefia	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X181	YES	NO	As a very concerned mother of a child with IEP I will like to help other parents to be able to channel the right services every child needs not just by mass evaluation. I will help other parents to be able to recieve the best and rightful services for their children and not to make mistakes I made because I didn't have the direction I needed to be able to help my child on the path they needed.
Sherrita Huntington	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X016	YES	NO	Serving on the Education Council for special education is very important to me because as a parent of 3 children with special needs I feel I have a lot of experience in the area and understand the needs and struggles of all Parents Educators and Students.
Sherrita Huntington	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X181	NO	NO	Serving on the Education Council for special education is very important to me because as a parent of 3 children with special needs I feel I have a lot of experience in the area and understand the needs and struggles of all Parents Educators and Students.
Sherrita Huntington	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X287	YES	NO	Serving on the Education Council for special education is very important to me because as a parent of 3 children with special needs I feel I have a lot of experience in the area and understand the needs and struggles of all Parents Educators and Students.
Sherrita Huntington	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X455	YES	NO	Serving on the Education Council for special education is very important to me because as a parent of 3 children with special needs I feel I have a lot of experience in the area and understand the needs and struggles of all Parents Educators and Students.
Cinthya Hurtado	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	19K108	YES	NO	I am a very devoted mom but feel like there is more I can do. I have never heard of education council until now and am very interested to share my knowledge and education in helping. I am already involved in my community but would love to now be involved in the DOE community. I love participating in parent activities hosted by the parent coordinator in my son's school. I would truly love to learn and give me own personal experience with my son's IEP and improve it in any way possible.
Jenny Hurtado	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q131	YES	NO	As a born and bred New Yorker I want to help my son who is in the 3rd grade and has Dyslexia. I want him to get the best education possible. The New York public school system has been my entire education and I want to try and improve it in any way I can. I believe that a small ripple can effect change. I hope to be that ripple. I have been in Human Resources for 10 years and hope to bring the ability to navigate inner office politics to the bureaucracy of the DOE. Thank you for your consideration.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Aisha Husbands	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K721	YES	NO	It would be an honor for me to serve the students and families of District 75 along with the children within the larger special education community. The desire and necessity to advocate for those in need is familiar to us all. As the mother of a child with special needs, as well as in my professional role as a registered nurse, advocacy has been both a necessity and a calling. I have experience as a member of both hospital wide and unit based committees. As a committee member, I advocated for patient safety, as well as examined protocols and formulated recommendations which impacted hospital polices. My service on the Council will address the broad needs of the District 75 community and will empower our children with knowledge, self-respect, and instill in them as much autonomy as possible.
Feruza Ibragimova	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K234	NO	YES	
Feruza Ibragimova	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K255	YES	NO	
Joanne Indiviglio	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M256	NO	NO	I am running for this position especially because of what has happened to Education in the last year during COVID. I have twin girls that are now 12 years old and the last time they were in a classroom they were on the brink of 11 years old. I think that it is important to not just look at Education and what is being taught online/in person but on the effects that our children experience as a whole. I think a lot of us forget what its like to be that age trying to make our way in the world of understanding what is required from us as children while in-school trying to understand what is also required of us for the future. Education is broad and so are the minds of our children and we need to explore all of it and not just some of it. I believe strongly that I can lead in a position that will open the minds of the educators and the ones being educated.
Joanne Indiviglio	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M256	YES	NO	I am running for this position especially because of what has happened to Education in the last year during COVID. I have twin girls that are now 12 years old and the last time they were in a classroom they were on the brink of 11 years old. I think that it is important to not just look at Education and what is being taught online/in person but on the effects that our children experience as a whole. I think a lot of us forget what its like to be that age trying to make our way in the world of understanding what is required from us as children while in-school trying to understand what is also required of us for the future. Education is broad and so are the minds of our children and we need to explore all of it and not just some of it. I believe strongly that I can lead in a position that will open the minds of the educators and the ones being educated.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Rachel Ingram	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	16K455	NO	NO	I believe I can help add to making a change when I was a kid growing up I was a teen mom and the city council members helped me find the resources that I needed to help me find.A daycare for my son and helped me find many other resources that I didn't know about so I want go help children out the way I was helped and I work as a school safety agent. I'm always helping kids I believe Helping is in my nature.
Rachel Ingram	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	23K599	YES	NO	I believe I can help add to making a change when I was a kid growing up I was a teen mom and the city council members helped me find the resources that I needed to help me find.A daycare for my son and helped me find many other resources that I didn't know about so I want go help children out the way I was helped and I work as a school safety agent. I'm always helping kids I believe Helping is in my nature.



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ayishah Irvin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	05M499	NO	NO	<p>Hello my name is Ayishah G Irvin. I have three beautiful children in public school. One in 3rd grade and two in High school. As an Education Council Members for the past 10 years I have worked with my superintendent and the district office to bring programs to our district. As a former teacher for the Department of Education I know the work that it takes to teach in this system. During my years on the council I help to review the district's educational programs and assess their effect on student achievement. We submit an annual evaluation of the superintendent to the Chancellor. I attend the Panel for Educational Policy meetings to express the district concerns or the concerns of the students in public school from lack of devices to the grading policy to G&amp;T. I serve as a liaison to schools and have formed great relationships with principals, PA/PTAs and Parent Coordinators. Part of our responsibility is to comment on educational and instructional policy and fight for the needs of all of our schools. I am blessed to have seen some pretty gifted students come in and out of the school system. I believe that I am here to help the families that do not know how to navigate this system and to help make it a better place for all children to learn. All of our children are gifted and talented learn at their own pace and we need to find a system that works for accelerated learners and learners in need of support. We also need to focus on healing center support for child that are struggling with the various issue during this pandemic.. I have been on the PA/ PTA for 7 years, S.L.T for 6 years, D.L.T for 6 years four of those as the Chair. I also serve as the Recording Secretary of the Education Consortium Council and I currently serve as the President Council President of District 5. I also attend my community 32 PCT monthly meetings to stay informed as to what is going on in the community. Also as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc the connection i have made with other member of the Divine nine in the Department of Education have been instrumental to some of the achievements made such as the book giveaway at PS 175 at College Career Day at FDA to name a few. In the past 10 years we have had various events such as a bazaar, cookout, seminars, book bag giveaways We also need a diverse body of people on the community education council to communicate with the superintendent, Executive Superintendent, Deputy Chancellors and Chancellor to continue to have our voices heard. I would be honored to be one of the voices in the room to continue to make strides for children in the public school education system.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ayishah Irvin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	05M517	YES	NO	<p>Hello my name is Ayishah G Irvin. I have three beautiful children in public school. One in 3rd grade and two in High school. As an Education Council Members for the past 10 years I have worked with my superintendent and the district office to bring programs to our district. As a former teacher for the Department of Education I know the work that it takes to teach in this system. During my years on the council I help to review the district's educational programs and assess their effect on student achievement. We submit an annual evaluation of the superintendent to the Chancellor. I attend the Panel for Educational Policy meetings to express the district concerns or the concerns of the students in public school from lack of devices to the grading policy to G&amp;T. I serve as a liaison to schools and have formed great relationships with principals, PA/PTAs and Parent Coordinators. Part of our responsibility is to comment on educational and instructional policy and fight for the needs of all of our schools. I am blessed to have seen some pretty gifted students come in and out of the school system. I believe that I am here to help the families that do not know how to navigate this system and to help make it a better place for all children to learn. All of our children are gifted and talented learn at their own pace and we need to find a system that works for accelerated learners and learners in need of support. We also need to focus on healing center support for child that are struggling with the various issue during this pandemic.. I have been on the PA/ PTA for 7 years, S.L.T for 6 years, D.L.T for 6 years four of those as the Chair. I also serve as the Recording Secretary of the Education Consortium Council and I currently serve as the President Council President of District 5. I also attend my community 32 PCT monthly meetings to stay informed as to what is going on in the community. Also as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc the connection i have made with other member of the Divine nine in the Department of Education have been instrumental to some of the achievements made such as the book giveaway at PS 175 at College Career Day at FDA to name a few. In the past 10 years we have had various events such as a bazaar, cookout, seminars, book bag giveaways We also need a diverse body of people on the community education council to communicate with the superintendent, Executive Superintendent, Deputy Chancellors and Chancellor to continue to have our voices heard. I would be honored to be one of the voices in the room to continue to make strides for children in the public school education system.</p>
Wilfrid Isaac	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	18K235	NO	NO	
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Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Marie Isner	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K029	YES	NO	<p>Before this year, I didn't have a reason to get involved in PTA or Education Council, because my kids were getting a good education. This year, my eyes have been opened. I've gotten quite an education in my first year as co-President of the PTA and I've watched very closely while our schools have re-opened, closed and re-opened again. I've listening intently to the mayor and the chancellor on big issues affecting our children and our city -not just Covid, but G&amp;T, rezoning, SHSAT, &amp; school funding. I've realized that in order to have a voice at the table, I must get involved and advocate for the students: of which two happen to be my children. The only way we can advance our children's futures is through working together: parents, educators, administration ALL coming together to focus on the students and giving them the best opportunities. Quality education for all students across NYC. Raising up voices in communities where they have long been ignored. Not standing for well that's the way it's always been done And really asking the question "Is this what's best for the students?" This year, more than ever, I truly appreciate how vital a school is to a child's development. Education is priority, but this year we see schools for all the other benefits that our children have been enjoying " stability, routine, safety, hot meals, socialization, and support for their learning disabilities. We can no longer take these benefits for granted. I would argue that a school environment is as important to a child's development as their home environment. For this, I want to serve on Education Council and advocate for the students and be a voice for the parents in CEC15. I joined the PTA of my children's school as a "thank you" after they had supported my daughter when she returned to school with a broken leg after being hit by a car in 2019. I was grateful for their help in getting her back in the classroom, and since I'm the type of person to put my money where my mouth is " I ran for office on the PTA. Of course, I couldn't have known that while I was serving as the VP of Afterschool on the PTA that Covid would hit and we would be forced to shutter our massive program and layoff dozens of workers. I couldn't have imagined that I would be tapped to become the co-President in September of 2020 because there was no one else interested in taking on the challenge, or who had the stomach for it frankly. Only the current co-president and I were willing to try and raise money during the school year unlike any other. Suddenly, I was helping to raise \$300k for the school without our usual big-ticket fundraisers: the afterschool program, our annual gala or community events. We pivoted. We created new events to replace what we'd lost. We got creative. I dressed up like a pirate and handed out "treasure" at a</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Jona Isufi	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K170	YES	NO	<p>I am interested in applying for a seat at the Education Council, as I see it as an opportunity to be more involved in the community. As a mother of two boys, I would like to have a voice in the decisions that affect their school life. My current profession is a chemist, but during my pre-motherhood days, I was very active in leadership and community roles. I have tutored for 5 years, and always valued education as a crucial part of someone's life. As a Resident advisor in college, I used to be very involved not only through fulfilling expectations, but also as mentoring freshmen for an easier transition to college life. I have also worked with school aged children when tutoring in the afternoon at Huntington center. This special year of Covid has made me realize how crucial a "teaching model" is for the children. It has made me appreciate the teacher of my eldest son, and also inspired me to maybe look into education as a possible future turn for my life down the road.</p> <p>When I saw the email from the school, inviting me to look at this opportunity, I saw this as a window to be more involved in the community. Given the fact of being a full-time employee, mother of two boys, 6 and 3, it is hard for me to attend in person events. With limited childcare, I am confined to my apartment, but with technology, I see this as a good possibility to be more involved. As a shy child, I used to rely on the voice of my parents, as an international student, I struggled to let my voice be heard, but as a mother, instinctively the voice became loud when needed. Children are the future, something that we can all agree on, but we all need to pay attention more, we need to provide a caring and loving environment. As Covid showed, we are all equal in the possibility of getting sick, we are all equal in the possibility of being "confined" to a small place, but not everyone has the possibility to be heard. If considered for a position, it would be my pleasure to work to improve and inspire others to learn more, and be an echoing voice. Thank you.</p>
Denise Jackson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X131	YES	NO	<p>I believe that I should be Elected to serve on the Education Council so I can be the voice not only for my children but for yours. I feel that I can be the one who could make a difference in our kids lives. By me being on the council it can happen with your support I will be the your advocate for our children education to make sure they get what they need in life. Thank You Very Much In Advance</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Denise Jackson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X723	YES	NO	I believe that I should be Elected to serve on the Education Council so I can be the voice not only for my children but for yours. I feel that I can be the one who could make a difference in our kids lives. By me being on the council it can happen with your support I will be the your advocate for our children education to make sure they get what they need in life. Thank You Very Much In Advance
Lisa Jackson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q270	YES	NO	Serving on the education council is important to me because, I have a child in special education and for a long time my son wasn't receiving the services he needed to thrive and I never want any other child or parent to go through the same situation. If I am elected I would be committed to helping teachers,parents, and community members with improving and giving more support to the public school system. I would like to help with students outcome and also assist with their developmental growth. I would also love to be apart of creating a school environment which unites all members of the
Jonathan Jakobi	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q299	YES	NO	I've been a NYC public school parent for nearly 30 years. I've had children in gifted, general and special education programs. My active service on PTA/PAs included: PTA President School Leadership Team (SLT) Representative Chair of Membership Outreach Editor of Parent Newsletter I've worked both on and off of PTA executive committees to provide: Greater participation to parents in SLTs, Outreach and support to underrepresented parents. As PTA president this year, I started simultaneous interpretation of Zoom PTA meetings for non english speaking parents. Worked to prevent gifted programs from being yanked from neighborhood schools Championed special education programs to provide support for students to succeed in advanced placement courses needed to succeed In remaining time as a NYC public school parent I want to serve on the CEC to improve the full array of programs needed to better serve our child and give better voice to parents to improve the educational opportunities for their kids. Please vote for me and support me to continue in this work. Thank you, Jonathan Jakobi BHSEC Queens PTA Co president

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Darren James	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K354	YES	NO	As a father of four boys, coming from a house where my mom had six of us, I am very concerned about our children's education. This is near and dear to me, and so I am passionate about the education of our children within our community. If an opportunity to help in the process of getting our communities to grow educationally, and help with the growth in our young ones, I am all in. It takes a village to raise a child as it is said. And with me playing a part the your children's and mine, getting a better education will be a blessing. Better education, leads to better community. An artiste said in his song emancipate ourselves from mental slavery, non but ourselves can free our minds. But sometimes it take others to get this going.. Thank you!
Darren James	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	18K276	NO	NO	As a father of four boys, coming from a house where my mom had six of us, I am very concerned about our children's education. This is near and dear to me, and so I am passionate about the education of our children within our community. If an opportunity to help in the process of getting our communities to grow educationally, and help with the growth in our young ones, I am all in. It takes a village to raise a child as it is said. And with me playing a part the your children's and mine, getting a better education will be a blessing. Better education, leads to better community. An artiste said in his song emancipate ourselves from mental slavery, non but ourselves can free our minds. But sometimes it take others to get this going.. Thank you!
Darren James	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	18K276	YES	NO	As a father of four boys, coming from a house where my mom had six of us, I am very concerned about our children's education. This is near and dear to me, and so I am passionate about the education of our children within our community. If an opportunity to help in the process of getting our communities to grow educationally, and help with the growth in our young ones, I am all in. It takes a village to raise a child as it is said. And with me playing a part the your children's and mine, getting a better education will be a blessing. Better education, leads to better community. An artiste said in his song emancipate ourselves from mental slavery, non but ourselves can free our minds. But sometimes it take others to get this going.. Thank you!

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Tiffany James	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	16K308	YES	NO	Serving on an Education Council is important to me because of my love, passion and dedication to education as well as working with children and their families within the community. My years of experience with several Community Based Organizations in different capacities as well as working as teacher and tutor, makes me confident that I would be an asset to the Education Council. In addition to me being an asset, the Education Council would allow for me to experience both professional and personal growth.
Wendy Javier	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M051	NO	NO	Hello my name is Wendy Turner I have three sons who have attended P.S. 51 The Elias Howe school. My 11 year old son is attending his last year at P.S.51. My 15 year old son With an Individualized Education Program, is a sophomore at Art & Design High School. I Am currently serving on the School Leadership Team, board and I'm also a Title 1 Parent as well at P.S.51. from 2015 to 2018 I served different positions on the Parent Teacher Association board. Previously I served on the School Leadership Team board from 2018 to 2019 . When my 15 year old son entered the Sixth grade at Lower Manhattan Community school, I was active on the School Leadership Team board from 2016 to 2019. I also volunteered at his High School.
Wendy Javier	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M630	YES	NO	Hello my name is Wendy Turner I have three sons who have attended P.S. 51 The Elias Howe school. My 11 year old son is attending his last year at P.S.51. My 15 year old son With an Individualized Education Program, is a sophomore at Art & Design High School. I Am currently serving on the School Leadership Team, board and I'm also a Title 1 Parent as well at P.S.51. from 2015 to 2018 I served different positions on the Parent Teacher Association board. Previously I served on the School Leadership Team board from 2018 to 2019 . When my 15 year old son entered the Sixth grade at Lower Manhattan Community school, I was active on the School Leadership Team board from 2016 to 2019. I also volunteered at his High School.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Thomas Jeffries	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K012	NO	NO	My name is LaBlessing Snipes I am the mother of JahAriel Snipes and Abijah Skeeter whom attend MS 484 and PS 12 in Brooklyn New York. I am the current founder of the UGLY DREAM INC project a Non-Profit in which we encourage youth arts and community relations. I am seeking for a seat on this board because I have an IEO student. I believe I am a strong advocate for the position because my views and opinions are based upon the education factors of our youth. I believe the proper people motivate the council and our youth to be successful. The proper seat holder will make sure that the needs of the school board are met by actively listening to the voices of the community. I am a strong motivator. My degree in Criminal Law and currently enrolled in Psychology at CUNY School of Professional Studies helps give me insight on how to understand the want and needs of our Education Communities.
Thomas Jeffries	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K484	YES	NO	My name is LaBlessing Snipes I am the mother of JahAriel Snipes and Abijah Skeeter whom attend MS 484 and PS 12 in Brooklyn New York. I am the current founder of the UGLY DREAM INC project a Non-Profit in which we encourage youth arts and community relations. I am seeking for a seat on this board because I have an IEO student. I believe I am a strong advocate for the position because my views and opinions are based upon the education factors of our youth. I believe the proper people motivate the council and our youth to be successful. The proper seat holder will make sure that the needs of the school board are met by actively listening to the voices of the community. I am a strong motivator. My degree in Criminal Law and currently enrolled in Psychology at CUNY School of Professional Studies helps give me insight on how to understand the want and needs of our Education Communities.
Nina Jenkins	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X107	YES	NO	I would love to serve on the education council to advocate for students with iep's in order to assist with finding more resources in our communities.



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Lourdes Jibodh	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X376	YES	NO	<p>I am proud to be a New York City Public School parent of a student with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). He is currently attending the 11th grade at Antonia Pantoja Preparatory Academy (08x376), serving students who are in grades 6-12. During my son's educational career, he faced many challenges. These challenges encouraged me to learn more about the services that New York City Public Schools provide for students with learning disabilities. I have taken the time to understand the policies of the Special Education Program in order to better support and advocate not only for my child, but to help educate other parents so they are also able to advocate for their children, if necessary. As a result of my advocacy, I became an elected member of the Community Education Council of District 8 (CEC8) to represent the interests of parents of students with Individual Education Plans and the interests of students with Individual Education Plans. In addition, since 2010, I have served as a Parent Association President in my child's elementary school, middle school, and now high school. I had the honor of serving four and a half terms as the elected Presidents' Council President. In this role, I oversaw all Parent Associations and Parent-Teacher Associations within the 36 schools of District 8. I also served two consecutive terms as an elected Executive Board Member of the Chancellor's Presidents' Council where I continue to represent our borough as the Bronx High School Federation Presidents' Council President. I believe deeply in the Bronx! I also believe deeply in the New York City Public Education System! I believe in ALL students! Even though I speak of my experience regarding my son and advocating for him and other students with IEP, I am here to advocate for all students. I believe that our children are all gifted and talented scholars capable of acquiring a good education and capable of flourishing within our public school system, eventually becoming successful citizens and giving back to their community. Being a current council member at CEC8, appointed by the Bronx Borough President, I bring to you my experience and knowledge of re-zoning policies, resolving community affairs, collaborating with the Superintendents, and working together to empower parents. Overall, I also believe that the relationships that I have built with parents, staff members, and the greater community will be a tremendous asset to any of the Community &amp; Citywide Councils. If elected, I will add to the stability and consistency of the work that we as council members do on a 24/7 basis.</p>
Sayeeda Johnson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K590	NO	NO	
Sayeeda Johnson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84K777	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Aleschia Johnson-Velasqu	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M075	YES	NO	As a native New Yorker educated in the best public schools in Brooklyn, I understand just how important quality education is to the success of students dependent upon the DOE. As a parent, now living in the Bronx I was truly taken aback by the disparities in access to quality schools in comparison to other boroughs. I have spent my career in higher education, most recently designing Pre-College programs and working with community based organizations to expand access to their students for post secondary opportunities and readiness programming. I would like to join the council to bring my native experience to the citywide council not only as a former student but also a parent and education administrator myself. I have found a way to navigate the DOE to work for my family and I would like to bring the joy of education to parents who may not have information readily available to them.
Jeanette Jones	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M340	YES	NO	I'm a parent with 3 decades of involvement. Having a 33y/o, 25y/o, 19y/o and a 7y/o who I've navigated the madness of the DOE waters. I've made mistakes but have learned through them. I will definitely be a advocate for students and parents and I believe my people skills will allow me to negotiate with all that may need help. We are making progress but yet have hurdles to cross. We need equality for all students, be they from wherever, have not or or haves, learning challenged or brilliant with proper support and policies all the children will prosper.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Willie Jones	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	27Q302	YES	NO	<p>I believe that a student's education is not only based on the educational system they are attending, but is closely related to the ability of the parent or guardian to be aware of the educational process. Being a Parent Leader gives one the ability to help and guide those who have not had the access and resources that is needed to contribute to the intellectual empowerment of their children and themselves. Over the years as a Parent Leader I have come to know the inner working of the Department of Education from a parent's perspective. Before becoming a Parent Leader, I had been a manager for most of my adult life. During my working career at Marpaul Custom Woodworking I have been a Production Manager overseeing 200 employees, conducted Board Meeting, employing workers for various positions, dealing with vendors, accountants, and staff. I have not only grown in knowledge but have also gain expertise in the functioning of a Working Board. During one of my job tenures I worked as a Facility Manager for Women in Need, a Tier Two Homeless Shelter in the Bronx where I taught the inhabitants the use and operation of computers. Every project that I have undertaken I have mastered. It is by God's Grace and Mercy that I achieved all that I know. As a DOE Parent Leader my tenure for District 27 Q is as follows: i¶ 2013 - 2014 PS/MS 105 The Bay School Parent SLT Member Presidents Council Parent Observer DPAC Parent Observer CPAC Parent Observer i¶ 2014 - 2015 PS/MS 105 The Bay School Parent SLT Member Presidents Council Parent Observer DPAC Parent Observer CPAC Parent Observer i¶ 2015 - 2016 PS/MS 105 The Bay School Parent Association Vice President Parent SLT Member Presidents Council Parent Observer DPAC Parent Observer CPAC Parent Observer i¶ 2016 - 2017 PS/MS 105 The Bay School Parent Association President TITLE I PAC Chairperson Core SLT Member Presidents Council 1st Vice-President i¶ 2017 - 2018 PS/MS 105 The Bay School Parent Association President TITLE I PAC Chairperson Core SLT Member Presidents Council Recording Secretary DPAC Parent Member CPAC Designee Parent Member i¶ 2018 - 2019 PS/MS 105 The Bay School Parent Association Vice-President Parent SLT TITLE I PAC Member Presidents Council Co-President DPAC Parent Member CPAC Parent Member CPAC TITLE I PAC Committee Member CEC Elected Member i¶ 2019- 2020 27 CEC CEC President ECC Member CCEC Member i¶ 2020 - 2021 District 27 CEC CEC President ECC Member CCEC Member i¶ 2020 “ 2021 HS302 QIRT PTA President</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Adriano Joseph	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X463	YES	NO	My name is Adriano Joseph and I am a father of 3 strong young boys between the ages of 12 and 3, two in which I am a single father. I know the difficulties parents face during these troubling times. Often it is the children with disabilities who are the most affected and left without a voice or anyone strongly advocating for them. As a father of a non-verbal autistic child, I felt my son was not getting the proper schooling necessary for his development. If elected, I will give voices to the children without voices and the parents that silently suffer. I carry myself with dignity to help all children in need. I will talk closely to those elected officials to get answers and make sure no child is left behind. I know what it takes to lead and to communicate the needs of the people and if I am elected, I will do just that. Vote for your children, vote Joseph.
Adriano Joseph	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X188	YES	NO	My name is Adriano Joseph and I am a father of 3 strong young boys between the ages of 12 and 3, two in which I am a single father. I know the difficulties parents face during these troubling times. Often it is the children with disabilities who are the most affected and left without a voice or anyone strongly advocating for them. As a father of a non-verbal autistic child, I felt my son was not getting the proper schooling necessary for his development. If elected, I will give voices to the children without voices and the parents that silently suffer. I carry myself with dignity to help all children in need. I will talk closely to those elected officials to get answers and make sure no child is left behind. I know what it takes to lead and to communicate the needs of the people and if I am elected, I will do just that. Vote for your children, vote Joseph.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Aria Joushan	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q186	YES	NO	<p>Dear Members, Before I begin my statement on why I should be chosen, want to give you a background of myself. I am a working mom of 2 wonderful children, 7 and 4 years old. My son is in grade 2 NEST program and on the autism spectrum. My daughter in Pre-K soon starting kindergarten in September. I am fortunate to still have a job during these difficult times and also working as a "teacher" for our virtual sessions all of last year. I see how caring the teachers are and how much love and support they have for my son. When things do not go well, like online assignments not uploading or parents doing most of the work, I see both sides of the coin-the parents and teacher. At the end, I always think what is BEST for the child, not the parents or the teacher. I have been attending NYC public school since the 3rd grade- didn't speak, write or read in English, went to the worse schools that were zoned to me. With the support of a few good teachers I went on to be the top of my class in High School, attended Baruch College, studied abroad in England, got my Masters from New York University. I did all of this while working since the age of 15 years old. I have worked in the biggest Fortune 500 companies. My children's future is important, I want to help where I couldn't get help when I was in school. I grew up poor in a gang infested block and now live a good life and I know what will work for a child especially in NYC and what doesn't. That is why being part of the Education Council is important to me.Thank you for your consideration. Warm regards, Aria Joushan</p>
Elvira Karanaeva	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84M100	YES	NO	
Constance Kaufman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K445	YES	YES	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Michael Kazis	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R056	YES	NO	Serving on an Education Council would be important to me because, I feel that it provides a fitting way to serve my community and offer a contribution to the greater good of the education of the children in our borough. Although I may not be fully informed of all the duties required I feel that my background and experience serving in various managerial and analytical roles could offer valuable feedback in our public school system. My college education includes a bachelor of science in computer information systems and a master of business administration. Although I am not a teacher, 2013 I had completed my New York State exam requirements to teach secondary education in physical sciences and have accumulated over one thousand hours of tutoring in higher level math, science and technology subjects. In my college years, I served as president of a student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers at the College of Staten Island. Most recently I served several years in officer roles of a professional association in New Jersey, including three years as the association's president.
Alisa Keegan	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	14K577	YES	NO	I am the current PTA Vice President at MS577, where my fourth child attends currently. I has children with IEPs, and understand services. I also teach at CUNY as an adjunct professor and am PSC union member.I am a creative studio owner that serves the theatrical and film industry.
Maayan Keshetg	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M267	YES	NO	I am a working mother of a child with an IEP. I am a strong supporter of in-person learning for all children, in particular children in special education programs and with IEPs. Children at a young age stand to benefit immensely from school IEP services and the strong teachers of NYC. I will fight for our children to have access to the best possible resources and staffing to learn and flourish in New York City public schools.
Irina Kourilova	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K771	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Joane Lawrence	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K771	YES	NO	Serving on the educational council is important to me because I have a child with special needs who is getting help for her challenges through the educational system with DOE. I know that there are resources and information for families with children that is in special ed. A lot of families are not aware of the additional support that may be available to them. Being on the council, I will help and work with a team that can communicate to all families the available support and resources that are available to them for their children's education in their community. I noticed in certain neighborhoods the resources are not well shared and communicated. In conclusion by voting for me I will fight for transparency and information access to all those who need it and in different languages. I am passionate and would love to work with a team that will help tailor certain educational programs that will help our children especially those who are often misunderstood accomplish their goals.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Shamel Lawrence	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q277	YES	NO	<p>Hello my name is Shamel Lawrence Sr. I'm a proud father to an awesome son named Shamel Lawrence Jr. First, let me thank you for allowing me to serve these past two years as your voice already. In my two years of serving our children and families in District 75, I've really worked hard to make sure that all children, families and educators have a voice in all decisions being made. Under my leadership as the President and Co President, I have built a relationship with other Districts and during COVID-19 I have delivered food and supplies to our children and families in District 75. I have also provided a support group and virtual activities for our children and families during these difficult times. In addition, I've helped to ease the minds of families by conducting walkthroughs in District 75 school buildings, to make sure that the safety of our children and educators have been put first. As a member of the District 75 Citywide council or any other Council, I promise to always put our children's safety and education first. Furthermore, I promise that not only will our children receive an education, they will receive the best quality education that is tailored to their individual needs. I strongly encourage parental involvement and will seek to implement an open door policy. No child or family should be treated differently because they attend a District 75 school. I am not here for the politics, I'm here for the children and the families . I will advocate for our children and families no matter what. I will continue to fight for a system that includes ever child and family. Vote for me and you won't be sorry. My record speaks volumes for the type of person that I am. I participation in following community or civic organizations. - 277Q PA - 277Q SLT - District 75 President Council - UFT Parents Committed - Committee on Special education - Queens Parents Board - Center Lodge # 18 - Past Master - Kiwanis Bayside Club - Black men in education Chapter #99 - Order eastern star - Rebecca chapter 91 - 100 black men in law enforcement - Rush Temple AME Zion Church After School Program - Boys Scouts of America- pack 419 Leader - NYPD Youth Advisor and so much more</p>



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Nefertiti Leach	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	23K363	YES	NO	As a Native New Yorker born and raised in NYC, I've been a public school student at every level (elementary, middle and high school). This will enable me to always keep the students' best interests at heart. As a mother of three children who've attended public, charter, co-ed, single gender, part time and full time boarding and military schools I have a broad range of experiences and advocacy with them being gifted & talented as well as having special needs. Last but not least as a former HS Dean I have firsthand knowledge of the inner-workings of DOE and what it is like on the front lines as the face of a school to students and parents, CBO's and also the liaison to school administrators. Lastly, serving marginalized communities including youth in care or without shelter as a Social Worker and Education Advocate further equips my ability to fill this role competently and compassionately. I have a Master's degree in Public Administration and I am midway through my second Master's in Special Education. Knowledge is power, this holds true for students, teachers, administrators and parents. All key stakeholders need and deserve to be equipped to make informed decisions. My trifecta of experiences supplies my well-rounded lens and I would be greatly appreciate the opportunity to be a contributing member of the Education Council.
Feng Y Lee	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M539	YES	NO	Dear Board of Education: I have two sons who have been part of the NYC public school system since their early educations and now they are in 9th grade and 6th grade attending the same school (Nest+m). Both Joshua and Alex have IEPs and their educations have been on the forefront of my role as a parent. I believe my experience as a caring parent and a finance professional can add much value to the discussions that help shape our next generation of students. Please note that Joshua Lee is under another email account and I am in the process of switching him to be under the same email as Alex Lee. Yours truly, Feng Yi

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Rayna Leiter	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M432	YES	NO	<p>How much does it cost to educate a special needs child in NYC? Apparently more than half a million dollars, which is what the DOE shelled out so my son could get an appropriate education, just somewhere else. There is not one parent of a special needs child I know (and I know quite a few) who wouldn't have wanted their child to go to public school, be normal, join clubs. I was no different and tried to make it work for my son for 3 years. First he attended a self-contained kindergarten class housed in a gifted and talented school. Then he moved to our local PS and repeated kindergarten and went to first grade in a CTT class. And, as he entered third grade in a private school, he could barely read. Why can't the NYC Department of Education ~do' special education when it seems to work in private schools around the country. Why can't the NYC DOE have fewer kids in the classroom? Why can't the DOE teach visually and repetitively? Why is it that if your child has severed emotional, mental and physical disabilities there are many options, all free to the parent. But, why is it not possible to educate the students who somehow fall through the cracks, have learning delays, dance to their own music; need a little extra help but not 6:1:2? Why pay other schools to educate our kids when all the tools you need are already in place? This is why I am running for the Council, even though my son will be graduating in 2022. After 9(!) years of wasting money paying a lawyer to sue the DOE for the right to an appropriate education, and the DOE wasting untold resources on saying no, I finally found a public school option that seems to be working, although with remote learning, it's truly hard to tell. \$500,000.00 is a good chunk of change to spend on educating one child, don't you think?</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Samantha Lester	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M291	YES	NO	<p>Hello, My name Samantha Lester, My son Marques Lester is a high school student with a IEP. During this pandemic the world has changed. Our lives have changed. Our children education has changed. I think this is the time to be more involved then ever in our children's education. My son and I made the choice together for him to participate in 100% remote learning. He gave me his word he would do his best, and he has for the most part with the resources that are available for him. With the support from his teachers and counselors; he has become a more positive student. And a more responsible young man. In our household we make decisions together. We have decided that I should run for Council. I have a associates degree in criminal justice. I work for a juvenile detention facility (7 years); where I encounter many youth who have been subjected to the judicial system of our country. Engaging with the minors in my care at my work place, has open my eyes to the many disadvantages that our youth face in the New York City tri-state area. Not every child has the support of a loving parent or dedicated teachers and staff members that support them. I'm here to have a voice. Not only for my for my son, but for every parent, and student that wants to be heard. It has been a pleasure to type this statement and to be recognize. Thank you, Samantha Lester</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ashlee Lewis	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M217	YES	NO	<p>I don't believe in judging a fish by its ability to climb a tree “ because every child possessed their own type of genius. That's largely because I'm the single mother of a unique and awesome 12-year-old who was diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum at the age of 2. My son has received services through Early Intervention, The Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE), and now the Committee on Special Education (CSE). He was enrolled in a District 75 school, but later transferred to our local district and was placed in an ICT class. In addition to being an active parent at both P94M and P.S./I.S.217, I have my BA in Psychology, have served as a mentor to emotionally/physically abused, out-of-care youth at the Achieving Independence Center in Philadelphia, formerly practiced Special Education Law, and am currently serving on the of Directors of Rena Daycare Centers, Inc. in Washington Heights. I am tenacious when it comes to obtaining the services and proper placement my son deserves. I'm also a prototypical self-starter “ initiating contact with various agencies and departments (specifically within the EI, CPSE, CSE circuits), building relationships with teachers, personnel, and administrators, researching different resources, meeting deadlines that were definitive yet subject to change, and refining my interpersonal skills and communication skills “ all while staying compulsively organized. There is nothing that will transform your life more than having your child diagnosed with a developmental, intellectual, or physical disability. It has a sideswiping effect and we, the parents, are often left overwhelmed and alone in trying to navigate the education system. Over the last 10years, my knowledge is tantamount to those who have been professionally trained in the field and I want to put that knowledge to use for the public good. That's why it would be an honor and a privilege to serve on the Education Council if elected.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Joann Lewis	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84K707	NO	NO	The Special Education Program is an import facet to making free education equitable for all children in NYC. Many parents aren't able to advocate for their children for various reasons and I would like to be able be able to intercede for them in order to help their children receive the care and education they deserve. During my children's educational journey, I made sure that we partnered with the Principal, Teachers and School Based Support Teams in order to support their educational needs throughout the years. My youngest has been receiving speech therapy since Kindergarten. As he progressed in years, we added emotional support to the IEP due to some mental health challenges that my son had faced in Fifth grade. Fortunately, we have been able to provide both sons with support outside of the school system whether it was speech therapy during the summer or psychotherapeutic support during the year. I've worked in Information Technology for the last 20 years in various roles which has allowed me to be a leader in my field. I've attended NYC Public Schools from Elementary (PS 297), Middle School (IS 383) and Brooklyn Technical High School. It wasn't until I was a parent that I got to see and really experience what is required to make a child's educational experience possible. If selected for this position on the council, I will use my knowledge, talent and influence to help NYC students and teachers.
Joann Lewis	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84K879	YES	NO	The Special Education Program is an import facet to making free education equitable for all children in NYC. Many parents aren't able to advocate for their children for various reasons and I would like to be able be able to intercede for them in order to help their children receive the care and education they deserve. During my children's educational journey, I made sure that we partnered with the Principal, Teachers and School Based Support Teams in order to support their educational needs throughout the years. My youngest has been receiving speech therapy since Kindergarten. As he progressed in years, we added emotional support to the IEP due to some mental health challenges that my son had faced in Fifth grade. Fortunately, we have been able to provide both sons with support outside of the school system whether it was speech therapy during the summer or psychotherapeutic support during the year. I've worked in Information Technology for the last 20 years in various roles which has allowed me to be a leader in my field. I've attended NYC Public Schools from Elementary (PS 297), Middle School (IS 383) and Brooklyn Technical High School. It wasn't until I was a parent that I got to see and really experience what is required to make a child's educational experience possible. If selected for this position on the council, I will use my knowledge, talent and influence to help NYC students and teachers.

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Shamea Loggins	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	07X018	YES	NO	
Leonora Lokaj	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	07X495	NO	YES	
Leonora Lokaj	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X228	YES	YES	
Elizabeth Lubin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	18K066	NO	NO	
Elizabeth Lubin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	18K066	YES	NO	
Doereitha Lucas	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X129	YES	NO	
Erika Luna	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X141	NO	NO	<p>Good Afternoon, I grew up in New York City and attended NYC Public Schools. I also attended a local College. I am a Bronx resident whose raising a middle school student and one High School student that attend NYC schools. I wanted to join the CEC years ago but couldn't because it was a Conflict of Interest. I have worked as a Police Officer and recently submitted my application for retirement. This will no longer be an issue. I have seen first hand what happens to New York City children who stop attending school. Unfortunately, high school is extremely pivotal and detrimental in determining that outcome. I previously worked for the Administration for Children's Services as a case manager and special rates liaison. My oldest child has an Individualized Education Plan and I am a strong supporter of educators. Success comes from a collaboration between parents and teachers. I am more than willing to serve. I have an excellent work ethic and while I never joined the Parents Association, I would volunteer to drop off supplies when requested to support their necessary cause. I am impartial and believe in respecting other people viewpoints even when they don't match my own.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Erika Luna	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X141	YES	NO	Good Afternoon, I grew up in New York City and attended NYC Public Schools. I also attended a local College. I am a Bronx resident whose raising a middle school student and one High School student that attend NYC schools. I wanted to join the CEC years ago but couldn't because it was a Conflict of Interest. I have worked as a Police Officer and recently submitted my application for retirement. This will no longer be an issue. I have seen first hand what happens to New York City children who stop attending school. Unfortunately, high school is extremely pivotal and detrimental in determining that outcome. I previously worked for the Administration for Children's Services as a case manager and special rates liaison. My oldest child has an Individualized Education Plan and I am a strong supporter of educators. Success comes from a collaboration between parents and teachers. I am more than willing to serve. I have an excellent work ethic and while I never joined the Parents Association, I would volunteer to drop off supplies when requested to support their necessary cause. I am impartial and believe in respecting other people viewpoints even when they don't match my own.
Kenny Serrano	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X071	YES	NO	Work in a cancer center at the moment as a nursing assistant, My daughter Skyler has been progressing tremendously. If I could make any time to improve children's education in a near future I would definitely do it Kenny Serrano
Marsha Machoura Akmalk	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q117	YES	NO	I'm an educator and professor of computer science at St John's University, Queens. I'm well aware of need students in class room in all aspect and I hope my expertise will help my community to improve education for our children.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Rossy Mancebo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X217	YES	NO	<p>February 15th, 2021 Dear Educational Council Voters, Hoping this letter finds you in health and in good spirits. I'm a mother, a student, an advocate for children and adults who are differently abled and a registered organ donor. I believe that I have what it takes to be a member of the educational council. My personal experience as a special needs mom and as a professional allows me to focus on solutions and not on the excuses that have held us back. I'm a dedicated parent who has always been involved in my children's education. I'm a Title 1 Representative, SLT and Equity team member at IS 217 School of Performing Arts. I have extensive knowledge on how the school system works as well as its loopholes. I believe that there's a lot of work to be done but in order to do so we must identify the needs of our community in order to fulfill them. There are three valuable key players in a child's educational journey parents, educators and the Department of Education. This team's agenda is to efficiently and effectively deliver on the promise of the rigorous future our children highly deserve. I'm willing and able to work with you to ensure that our children's voices are heard but most importantly that their needs are met. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you. Parent Advocate Organ Donation Advocate and Volunteer Down Syndrome Advocate Autism Advocate Individualized Education Plan (IEP) knowledgeable SLT member (two years and counting) Former NYC DOE Student Current Hunter College Student Sincerely, Rossy Mancebo   œChildren are Priority. Change is Reality. Collaboration is the strategy.   By: Judy Billings</p>
Marichel Manza	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q011	YES	NO	



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Gena Marcelle	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q181	YES	NO	It would be advantageous to parents, community and NYC DOE to have me, as a council member. I like many others have first hand experience of children born with autism. In district 75 I have a 15 yr old nephew with Autism, and my son Jacob himself has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum. I have been a single mom since I became pregnant with Jacob and have gone through many trials and fights towards getting him services for his special needs. I am sure that there are more services available to him that I am not aware of. The education system is broken, Teachers are overwhelmed, parents are frustrated and the Education system needs to be revitalized. One parent, teacher, advocate council member cannot do it alone. I am emotionally, psychology and spiritually vested towards making my son win. Whatever it takes to help him understand his incredibly beautiful gift of being autistic, his unique understanding of things around him and to teach him that he is normal, and he can be productive, in any society. I especially look forward to learning more about our education system and how can I play a part in making it better. There isn't a reason why any child should not have a chance of achieving their goal of being educated.
Jawanna Marcus	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84Q704	YES	NO	
Renee Marhong	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R013	NO	NO	Hello, my name is Renee Marhong. I am a Public Health Nurse living and working on Staten Island. I am the mother to 3 children in school on the Island, one in pre-K, one in fifth grade and one in ninth grade. My children are in District 31 and 75. Serving on the CEC is important to me because I want to make a deeper investment in my community. I believe in holding our leaders accountable and parents having a voice in the school system. My priority is to bring as much equity, access and resources to our schools as possible. I currently sit on my son's SLT and attend PTA meetings. I have been a community activist for over 20 years and I am excited to serve in this new capacity. Thank you for considering me, it would be my honor to serve on a CEC.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Renee Marhong	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75R721	YES	NO	Hello, my name is Renee Marhong. I am a Public Health Nurse living and working on Staten Island. I am the mother to 3 children in school on the Island, one in pre-K, one in fifth grade and one in ninth grade. My children are in District 31 and 75. Serving on the CEC is important to me because I want to make a deeper investment in my community. I believe in holding our leaders accountable and parents having a voice in the school system. My priority is to bring as much equity, access and resources to our schools as possible. I currently sit on my son's SLT and attend PTA meetings. I have been a community activist for over 20 years and I am excited to serve in this new capacity. Thank you for considering me, it would be my honor to serve on a CEC.
Tatiana Marmolejo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84Q359	YES	NO	Hello, My name is Tatiana Marmolejo I'm mother of 3 lucas Morfa in 6 grade currently in ACADEMY IF THE CITY CHARTER Matthew Valencia currently in 12 grade both have EIP since day one, and Aaron Morfa currently in pre k in Mi mundo where he learning both languages which I love, I have a baccalaureate Degree in Operation Management, I will love to help other parent with theirs kids need specially for those who don't understand the system and sometimes, they loose the opportunity for their kids, many barriers their language, lock of time, lock knowledge and many others staff that I will help on. I have help many friends with kids even though I don't have nothing to do with the educational field I just like justice and being fair. Many situations our community looses that gain already that have but because they don't know is been wasted,Ike the services that the education in New York have. I will really help our community to best of the my knowledge.
Tricia Marquez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q167	YES	NO	
Jasmyn Marrale	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K230	YES	NO	i am the mother of a special needs child. I have fought and advocated for her throughout her scholastic career to ensure that she gets the necessary services in order to achieve her goals. It hasn't always been easy. Staying engaged and active in my child's education is very important to me and I would love to be able to be a part of the process from the top down. I believe more parents should be involved in this role.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Janet Marte	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K024	YES	NO	My name is Janet Marte. I am the mother of a 6 year old autistic boy. He came into this world to complete my family and brighten up my life. When he was initially diagnosed we couldn't believe it; but we knew we had to provide him services to better his opportunities in life. It did not take long for us to realize the disparities in services based off of where you lived. We are sunset park natives. We love the diversity in our community; but were in complete shock to learn that most of the special education services needed for my son and other children with similar diagnosis were miles away. That our children would have to endure long bus rides to and from school. That they would not be able to enjoy the community they live in on a daily basis. My son would not have the opportunity to learn alongside peers that lived in his neighborhood or play with them. That in the neighborhood my son was born in and lived in he was now the outsider. Advocating for my son has sparked a passion. This desire to make sure that we work on making things just a little better for the next family trying to understand a diagnosis and the need for services. As a working mother I have not been able to participate in a PTA but knowing that the education council meets in the evenings allows me to participate in helping other families in need. My interest to participate is to help bridge education gaps and provide information to people who need it most.
Brittney Martin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	18K114	YES	NO	I Brittney Martin would like to run for Education Council, because I would like to have an active part in my children's education. Both of my children have IEPs and I know what the struggle is and like when it comes to their struggles and successes, when it comes to their learning patterns, and lack their of. I have a child who is struggling with reading and and a physical disability, I also have a child that struggles with just sitting still for these online class. I experience on a daily the many challenges that comes with this virtual learning but also know the struggles when it comes to the in person learning as well. Even I as a parent have struggles and get frustrated with the way things are, so I can speak for other parents who may feel the same way I do, I can speak for parents who have children with disabilities, I can speak for parents who have that antsy child/children who can't sit still. I can speak for parents who have a child or children who are struggle but don't know who to call on or where to start to even try to call on someone. I want to be a voice for these parents, I want to be able to make a difference and be of service. these are some of the reasons why i want to run for Education Council.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Brittany Martinez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	06M048	NO	NO	I am an autism mom to a 12 year old and I am an Advocacy Ambassador for Autism Speaks and I represent NYC. I have the passion, experience and determination to make all special needs children a priority in the education system so that they have all the opportunities for resources and a chance to succeed despite their disability. I would be honored to serve on the council.
Brittany Martinez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M138	YES	NO	I am an autism mom to a 12 year old and I am an Advocacy Ambassador for Autism Speaks and I represent NYC. I have the passion, experience and determination to make all special needs children a priority in the education system so that they have all the opportunities for resources and a chance to succeed despite their disability. I would be honored to serve on the council.
Donna Martinez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q229	YES	NO	I, Donna Martinez would like to run for the open seat for the Community Educational Council. Both my children are in special education and I feel very strongly to improve their education. My experience as a former member of the SLT, which I was on the team to help with making decisions, assisted the PTA with fundraising and working with community affairs to place a stop sign by our school. I also volunteer in my community to help set up paint night for the kids, planned Halloween parade for the community and organized a gardening club. Please consider my application for serving in the CEC. Sincerely, Donna Martinez
Judith Martinez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X318	YES	NO	
Judith Martinez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84X208	NO	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Saury Martinez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X392	YES	NO	<p>My name is Saury M. Martinez and I'm 29 years old Female residing in the Throggsneck section of the Bronx. I'm a Parent, Foster parent, Behavioral therapist in the homes, serving students with disabilities. I wear many hats and learned to step out of my comfort zone. I'm very attentive not impulsive to make important decision regarding education. I work closely with professionals and parents in order to advocate for the best educational outcome. I've worked closely with NYS school phycologist, Director of Education and Governmental Relations personal, NYC teachers/Special education, Paraprofessional, Assistant Principle, Principles, School Secretary, Educational specialist, Related service Providers, District Representative, Board certified Behavioral analyst, Foster care agency Supervisor of Early Childhood &amp; Elementary Education, Administration for children services, Child protective Service, Counselors in school &amp; in the Community, School Clinicians etc. As a Mother/foster parent, there was always a conflict were legal guardian who don't met eye to eye or simply have different belief systems. This was a challenge I was willing to face and overcome. I developed the skill to supervise difficulties, note taking, creating paper trails, create plans and procedures, monitor improvements and regressions, hold back when intervention was required and observe. This helped me sit at meetings without judgments in efforts to discuss necessary changes for a better outcome. As a professional &amp; advocate/parent I've sat at the tables on both sides advocating and strategizing with leaders in schools and community leaders. whether it was private, public or non-public schools as well as agencies. I've always provided suggestions and opinions taken into consideration. Due to my own reason in not desiring a permanently position, I flooded as a educational professional, which lead me to see across the board and learn from different individuals. This gave me abroad look on the educational system in the communities. If considered for the position applying for, I would like to give my opinion to help and serve communities and support leaders who are local officials with great responsibilities. If I don't fit in this position, my hope is that the candidate chosen will serve their purpose in the Education Council. Thank you in advance for the opportunity in submitting for this position. If any questions may arise don't hesitate to reach me for a deeper discussion.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Saury Martinez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X723	NO	NO	<p>My name is Saury M. Martinez and I'm 29 years old Female residing in the Throggsneck section of the Bronx. I'm a Parent, Foster parent, Behavioral therapist in the homes, serving students with disabilities. I wear many hats and learned to step out of my comfort zone. I'm very attentive not impulsive to make important decision regarding education. I work closely with professionals and parents in order to advocate for the best educational outcome. I've worked closely with NYS school phycologist, Director of Education and Governmental Relations personal, NYC teachers/Special education, Paraprofessional, Assistant Principle, Principles, School Secretary, Educational specialist, Related service Providers, District Representative, Board certified Behavioral analyst, Foster care agency Supervisor of Early Childhood &amp; Elementary Education, Administration for children services, Child protective Service, Counselors in school &amp; in the Community, School Clinicians etc. As a Mother/foster parent, there was always a conflict were legal guardian who don't met eye to eye or simply have different belief systems. This was a challenge I was willing to face and overcome. I developed the skill to supervise difficulties, note taking, creating paper trails, create plans and procedures, monitor improvements and regressions, hold back when intervention was required and observe. This helped me sit at meetings without judgments in efforts to discuss necessary changes for a better outcome. As a professional &amp; advocate/parent I've sat at the tables on both sides advocating and strategizing with leaders in schools and community leaders. whether it was private, public or non-public schools as well as agencies. I've always provided suggestions and opinions taken into consideration. Due to my own reason in not desiring a permanently position, I flooded as a educational professional, which lead me to see across the board and learn from different individuals. This gave me abroad look on the educational system in the communities. If considered for the position applying for, I would like to give my opinion to help and serve communities and support leaders who are local officials with great responsibilities. If I don't fit in this position, my hope is that the candidate chosen will serve their purpose in the Education Council. Thank you in advance for the opportunity in submitting for this position. If any questions may arise don't hesitate to reach me for a deeper discussion.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Erika Mata	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X196	YES	NO	Good day My name is Erika Mata and Im the mother of a Third grader in a general efucation setting with SETTS and Speech Related services I've been navigating for almost 6 years yrough Special Education Schools and Services encountering so many hurdles and obstacles therefore had to learn policies, rules and Im strongly believe that we together can overcome all this rocks that had been an impediment to our Bronx kids and minorities being held down
Lizbeth Matias	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K410	NO	NO	
Lizbeth Matias	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K373	YES	NO	
Jennifer Mcaloney	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	27Q090	YES	YES	As a former NYCDOE special education teacher in District 10 in the Bronx, I worked with students with disabilities and their families closely within the SETSS and ICT setting, as well was also serving as the Special Education and Transition Liaison at my school. My role as Special Education and Transition liaison allowed me to turnkey data and resources with administration and staff to ensure that our most vulnerable of the student population were serviced appropriately and efficiently while giving them opportunities that would prepare them and their families for the rest of their academic careers and lives. Within this dialogue, it opened up discussions and opportunities to train and retrain teachers on writing quality IEPs and navigating SESIS in a more productive and efficient way, as well as sharing classroom practices, activities and ideas for differentiated instruction for various subjects. Given the exposure that I had through this role and as a teacher, I understand what is necessary to prepare a community of teachers and students and their families for their academic success and growth through collaboration and strategic planning. My work as an educator reinforced my duty as an advocate to my children who are both on the Autism Spectrum and pushed me to continue to fight for them to thrive in a setting that allowed them to be individuals and let their disability define them but let who they are define their disability. I feel i would be a great candidate for the Education Council.
Jeanna McGinnis	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K010	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Felicita Mchugh	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q049	YES	NO	Hello everyone. My name is Felicita McHugh. I am the parent of a 3rd grader who has an IEP. I am running for a seat on an Education Council because I would like to continue to serve the children in our District. I am passionate about making sure our children have access to the educational opportunities and support services they deserve and are entitled to in a safe, clean, nurturing environment. I feel that parents should engage and collaborate as much as possible with school officials on all levels to make this happen. My prior experience as a Co-President of Q300's PTA, as well my current position as a member of the SLT at PS/IS 49 reaffirms my stance that committed parents can make a positive impact on children's learning environments. If elected, I will do my best to advocate for the schools I represent and work towards making sure that our students and schools get what they need to be successful.
Ebony Mckoy	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M226	YES	NO	My name is Ebony McKoy and I am the mother of two children, both with IEPs in DOE schools. My 9-year-old son is in a D75 school, 6:1:1 classroom. My son has autism and sensory integration dysfunction. I have not served on any prior committees but my journey raising my children in the New York public schools has given me the experience as well as the education I need to not only be an advocate for my children but for other parents as well. Before having both my kids, I knew, for the most part, what to prepare for, what to expect. I knew that being a young, single mother raising two kids on her own was not going to be easy, but I could prepare. There was nothing to prepare me for what life would be like with two children with IEPs let alone an autistic son. Entering school was overwhelming, I felt lost. There was so much paperwork, I had no understanding of IEPs or services, no idea how to help my son. It was only through a bad school experience that I learned how to be an advocate for my children. I learned how to read IEPs, what to ask for and how to ask for it. I learned how to make sure my kids got what they needed both in the classroom and at home. I know so many others who have been in my shoes and so many more that will be. If elected to this committee, I will not only be their voice, but someone who relates to each and every one of them, someone who answers questions and shares experiences, someone who can relate to them as individuals and mothers. Community is incredibly important to me; it is what has helped me through this all. I want to give back to my community. We are blessed to have the teachers we do, but just as important is how we educate and advocate for our children when they are at home.



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Teisha Mckoy	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M083	YES	NO	My reason to run for a seat for the community education counsel and ccse are genuine and sincere. As a parent , there are certain expectations that are expected from us when sending our children to school each day. Our children should be dressed , clean , fed and ready to learn each day for school and exhibit the best behavior possible conducive to their classroom. There should also be the same expectation for all schools that serve our children. The same progress should be made, resources and support given to all families and students that the DOE serve. In America and her children are required by law to attend school (a free education) but unfortunately it's not always designed that way for certain communities of color & economic disparities. Certain schools lack the resources , the staff and support needed to guarantee a quality education for everyone. Certain boundaries such school suspensions, promotion, special education resources etc makes it very difficult for certain community children to keep up. I believe the counsel and everyone that sits at these kind of tables should be held accountable to action ALL children. The underserved, the gifted & talented and those dreamers to achieve their educational goals and dreams. And I hope to be apart of that.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Nequan Mclean	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	13K527	YES	NO	<p>My name is Nequan C. McLean. I am the husband to Tiffany and the proud father of Jade-Nijia (Junior, DSU), Jay-Len (Freshman, SBU), Ja-Shae (11th grade) and Jairus (2nd grade), who attend (or have attended) schools throughout Brooklyn and Manhattan, including The Brooklyn Brownstone School in Community School District (CSD) 16. Born and raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant, I attended P.S. 26, P.S. 309, M.S. 35 and Boys &amp; Girls High School all in CSD 16. As a parent I have served in various parent leadership roles including PTA president, School Leadership Team member at The Urban Assembly Institute of Math and Science for Young Women, where my youngest daughter attends high school. Also served as the PTA President at P.S. 262 and Co-President of the D16K Presidents' Council. I was elected to serve on the CEC 16 in 2014, at a time when our district was overlooked and continuously under-resourced. Elected early in my tenure to be President of CEC 16, over the past six years, we have worked as a team to lay the groundwork of a foundation that would ensure that our district is equitably resourced. Our strong and consistent advocacy, paired with our development of solid partnerships with elected officials, local organizations, representatives at the Department of Education, among others, have led us to manifest much needed change in our district. We continue to energize a movement towards equity and true excellence. Every challenge presented was an opportunity to seize good for our schools. Today, after one year of a devastating pandemic that laid bare the deeply rooted inequities and erroneous principles that marginalized our most vulnerable communities. I can say that, not only us, but the world, has seen the <i>œwhy</i> behind our efforts and support our advocacy for true change and the dismantling of an unjust education system. We are holding education authorities accountable. We advocate for enrichment programs for all so that all children in our schools have an opportunity to identify, nourish, and succeed in their natural talents. We demand the efficient allocation of resources so that our schools have the capacity to offer a truly excellent education to all of our children, not only the privileged few. As a native of Bedford-Stuyvesant, as a leader in a community that has been historically underserved, as the father to a child who was recently diagnosed with dyslexia, I have experienced firsthand the added frustration that inequities bring to those already oppressed. Forced to navigate a system that does not represent us, and that makes our basic rights difficult to attain. Throughout my journey as an advocate against this injustice, I have served as a member of the Citywide School Diversity Advisory Group, the Mayor's Education Sector Advisory Council and the Fair Student</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Nequan Mclean	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	16K628	YES	NO	<p>My name is Nequan C. McLean. I am the husband to Tiffany and the proud father of Jade-Nijia (Junior, DSU), Jay-Len (Freshman, SBU), Ja-Shae (11th grade) and Jairus (2nd grade), who attend (or have attended) schools throughout Brooklyn and Manhattan, including The Brooklyn Brownstone School in Community School District (CSD) 16. Born and raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant, I attended P.S. 26, P.S. 309, M.S. 35 and Boys &amp; Girls High School all in CSD 16. As a parent I have served in various parent leadership roles including PTA president, School Leadership Team member at The Urban Assembly Institute of Math and Science for Young Women, where my youngest daughter attends high school. Also served as the PTA President at P.S. 262 and Co-President of the D16K Presidents' Council. I was elected to serve on the CEC 16 in 2014, at a time when our district was overlooked and continuously under-resourced. Elected early in my tenure to be President of CEC 16, over the past six years, we have worked as a team to lay the groundwork of a foundation that would ensure that our district is equitably resourced. Our strong and consistent advocacy, paired with our development of solid partnerships with elected officials, local organizations, representatives at the Department of Education, among others, have led us to manifest much needed change in our district. We continue to energize a movement towards equity and true excellence. Every challenge presented was an opportunity to seize good for our schools. Today, after one year of a devastating pandemic that laid bare the deeply rooted inequities and erroneous principles that marginalized our most vulnerable communities. I can say that, not only us, but the world, has seen the <i>œwhy</i> behind our efforts and support our advocacy for true change and the dismantling of an unjust education system. We are holding education authorities accountable. We advocate for enrichment programs for all so that all children in our schools have an opportunity to identify, nourish, and succeed in their natural talents. We demand the efficient allocation of resources so that our schools have the capacity to offer a truly excellent education to all of our children, not only the privileged few. As a native of Bedford-Stuyvesant, as a leader in a community that has been historically underserved, as the father to a child who was recently diagnosed with dyslexia, I have experienced firsthand the added frustration that inequities bring to those already oppressed. Forced to navigate a system that does not represent us, and that makes our basic rights difficult to attain. Throughout my journey as an advocate against this injustice, I have served as a member of the Citywide School Diversity Advisory Group, the Mayor's Education Sector Advisory Council and the Fair Student</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Joan Meletiche	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q165	YES	NO	<p>Dear Sir or Madam: Please accept my enthusiastic application for a possible seat on the New York Community and Citywide Education Council. I have worked in similar environments as a former social worker supervisor at Hudson Guild Elliott Chelsea Natural Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) where I obtained extensive experience working with diverse older populations on an employment and academic level. I have also supervised older youth/Senior Citizen helpers' environment. My role at Hudson Guild afforded me the ability to advocate for the rights of our seniors as well as the youth who worked in the NORC community. With this in mind, my experience would make me a valuable asset and an ideal fit for council member. While employed at Hudson Guild, I have built a rapport and provided concrete social service delivery for NORC participants. Additionally, I encouraged my then clients to become involved with NORC activities, practice self-empowerment, increase political astuteness and build cohesive bonds of support within their community. I have facilitated Chronic Disease Self- Management and Healthy Living Courses via Department of the Aging/ Stanford University at the Elliott Chelsea Hudson Guild location where there were 30 NORC senior participant graduated each semester. I also conducted and planned outreach strategies, supervised case managers, youth assistants and interns. I have also obtained experience as a fundraiser/social worker for Covenant House where I motivated runaway youth to advocate for their safety, health, wellness and education for runaway youth. Although my advocacy experience is entrenched in employment and academic environments, my greatest achievement is that of mother and advocate for my son who has autism spectrum disorder. It is through our experience of living with ASD that has taught me about the power of advocacy and the importance of facilitating social change on a grander scale. My son is one of the many optimum examples of how a child's potential is not only reached by having distinctive individual brilliance but is also a concrete collective of a stellar educational system, advocacy, community and family support. The aforementioned underpinnings are key factors to consider when implementing vital services for children with special needs as well for their mainstream counterparts. I have attended PTA meetings, participated and volunteered in numerous events at my son's school in Flushing, Queens. I have built a rapport with his teachers and staff have gained great perspective with the mechanics of how to navigate the workings of the school system At present, I hold a doctorate degree in Human Services Social Work from Walden University, Master of Social Work and Bachelor's in</p>
Melinda Mercado	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R031	NO	NO	
Melinda Mercado	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R061	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Shanna Michel	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K199	YES	NO	I am a strong believer in quality education; my motto is no matter what race, ethnicity, socio “economic background or abilities of someone it should not determine whether one accesses quality education or not. I want to leave my mark, by helping to stimulate young minds to want to learn. I completed a Masters in Special Education at Brooklyn College and dedicated my time to being an educator not just to impart knowledge, but to also to encourage families to do their best to expose their kids to the best education that caters to the child's needs. I have always played an active role in PTAs for any school that my children attend. I was the PTA president for Aim High 2018/2019. As president I fueled fund raising activities to allow kids to get exposed to hands on learning and learning while having fun. Funding puppet shows and giving awards so that kids feel proud of themselves at an early age. I would love to see equitability among schools, families and scholars. A reality where students, no matter where the school is located, are taught at the highest level and are encouraged to achieve their best. Serving on the Education counsel would allow me to influence decision making and advocate for families that may otherwise lack the knowledge needed.
Marcey Mighty	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q390	YES	NO	Shalom Families and DOE, My name is Marcey Mighty, a parent serving on the PTA Treasury board of our newly inaugural school P.S. 390Q (The Civic School of Bayside Hills). Its imperative for me to be active in this upcoming Education Council. I am a mother of a child that has an IEP and the struggle to access immediate help has been an intense challenge. If its not calling someone for assistance, it becomes øyou kicking down doors and acting like a crazy person ¶just to advocate for your child. Regardless of a child's indifference, that doesn't mean that they should be withheld from accessing basic educational facilities and exercises that their pairs without having to wait (what feels like) a billion years. LET ME BE THE VOICE FOR OUR CHILDREN! BE THEIR HERO FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE NEEDS!øŸ!¼ øŸ!øŸø ¶M€¡SUPERHERO MIGHTY TO THE RESCUEøŸ!øŸø ¶M€¡ø

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Denisha Miller	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X250	YES	NO	Good morning to you all! My name is Denisha Miller, and currently is a parent of a IEP student that have been getting services since elementary school. However, I think I can be a good representation for being a member on the council board because I am not afraid to speak up about what kids have been going through from converting from going in-person all the time to school, to being committed to being a virtual student. From being a extrovert student, to strictly being introvert student just to get the work done. Also, being part of my son's current PTA group, going to the virtual meetings, how things can change for our future generation. Let me be your voice, and get a chance to show that our future generation can make it out of our communities with more knowledge if we get access to more programs even if its virtual. Have a good day! Regards, Denisha Miller
Shacques Millikens	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X323	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Julie Milner	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M408	YES	NO	I would be honored to serve on the Education Council. I bring a myriad of experiences that empower me to advocate for our children's needs. First, I am the mother of five children who attended public school. My youngest is a 10th grader at PPAS in Manhattan and has an IEP. Second, I am a former special education and social studies teacher working in Title I high schools. Third, I am a professor of education preparing our newest teachers to serve our highest needs students. while also working towards an Educational Doctorate. I am deeply immersed in educational policy issues and best classroom practices. Fourth, I am a constitutional and civil rights attorney (semi-retired). My most important role in my life is that of a parent. I have successfully navigated the school system to help my children get into the colleges of their choice and the careers of their dreams. I served as a Learning Leader during the mid-1990s, and then on the School Leadership Team for almost a decade. Assemblyman Ivan Lafayette appointed me to the Advisory Board for District 24Q Universal Pre-K where I engaged in a feasibility study for the implementation of UPK in the District and inspected potential sites to recommend for board approval. Four of my children benefitted from G&T programs while two were supported by IEPs. Being a parent to such diverse learners instilled a strong belief in the need for individualized education tailored to each child's unique skills, interests and needs. Equity & Excellence should not be a mere catch phrase but a guarantee that all children learn and flourish in their schools. All schools are not equal or equitable. My own children were blessed to attend choice schools. However, I was dismayed at the condition of the Title I schools I taught in serving children of color. Technology, materials and resources that I took for granted as a parent were denied to my students in our classrooms. My two youngest children had not one but two 3-D printers in their elementary school and both were on the ballroom dancing team, debate team, sports teams, and had plenty of performing opportunities. I taught high school students who had none of that. Many had not even travelled outside their borough. As a teacher, I worked hard to arrange field trips, getting Broadway tickets comped (I was even lucky enough to get the Hamilton program three times for my students!), writing grants for funding for essential materials, and applying for special programs to bring to my schools. This was on top of the relentless work to individualize lesson plans to meet the Common Core mandates as well as the legal mandates of the IEPs, plus closing the insurmountable literacy gaps so that my students could pass their Regents and even be able to fill out a job application. Now that I am a professor of
Theresa Mitchener	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X211	YES	NO	I Thresa Mitchener will be Honored to joined School Board to discuss my opinion on Special Education and How we as Teachers, Parents, Principles and student how we can fixed education. Funding and college, financial Hardship.
Keon Moffatt	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	23K363	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Vandhana Mohan	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q163	YES	NO	
Vandhana Mohan	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q430	YES	NO	
Chanel Mone	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q009	YES	NO	I have been dealing with special education for as long as I could remember. My son started receiving special education services at two years old. I also dealt with services when I was young. My son receives a full round of services PT, OT Speech and counseling services and when he was younger had a one to one para Professional. I've dealt with a principal having issues with special needs children. This past year I had to deal with applying to high schools. I would like the process to change as it's geared towards general education and not how they differ towards special needs children ( basically children in special Ed. ). I would just like more information out there on schools. This is very important to me as I hope to make a difference. Thank you in advance for your consideration.
Barbara Monfort	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	19K218	YES	YES	



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Kristie Montalvan	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R032	YES	NO	<p>My name is Kristie Montalvan and I have been a New York City Department of Education parent for almost 6 years. My oldest son is in the 4th grade in a district 31 general education classroom. I have 7 year old twins who are both in special education programs. My son is in 1st grade in the NEST program in a district 31 school. My daughter is in first grade in a district 75 school. I believe the experience of having children in three different NYC public schools, in two different school districts, gives me a very unique perspective. I am able to contribute my experiences with a variety of schools and programs to assist in making important and complex decisions on the education council. I have volunteered and participated in many PTAs and parent organizations over the last 6 years. I believe my time is the greatest contribution I can give toward my child's educational experience. From 2018-2019, I was the Parent Council President for my twins CPSE preschool. During my time running the parent council, I held monthly meetings with parents and staff and helped facilitate a symbiotic relationship between the school and parents. I organized several fundraisers and through my tenacity and perseverance, I was able to secure much needed funds for therapy programs and supplies for the school. I also had the pleasure of making connections with other parents and gaining incites to their individual educational needs for their children. In my position as parent council president, I learned empathy and respect for all parents and students. I believe that our schools thrive when there is active parent involvement. Education thrives when parents, teachers, and administrators are all working together. I am thoroughly excited at the opportunity to serve on the education council and represent the diverse population of New York City public schools. Now more than ever, I believe it is important to work diligently to ensure that all of our children receive the free and appropriate education they are entitled to. With my past experiences, empathy, and tenacity, I feel like I would make an excellent addition to the Education Council. I humbly ask for your vote.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Kristie Montalvan	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R069	YES	NO	<p>My name is Kristie Montalvan and I have been a New York City Department of Education parent for almost 6 years. My oldest son is in the 4th grade in a district 31 general education classroom. I have 7 year old twins who are both in special education programs. My son is in 1st grade in the NEST program in a district 31 school. My daughter is in first grade in a district 75 school. I believe the experience of having children in three different NYC public schools, in two different school districts, gives me a very unique perspective. I am able to contribute my experiences with a variety of schools and programs to assist in making important and complex decisions on the education council. I have volunteered and participated in many PTAs and parent organizations over the last 6 years. I believe my time is the greatest contribution I can give toward my child's educational experience. From 2018-2019, I was the Parent Council President for my twins CPSE preschool. During my time running the parent council, I held monthly meetings with parents and staff and helped facilitate a symbiotic relationship between the school and parents. I organized several fundraisers and through my tenacity and perseverance, I was able to secure much needed funds for therapy programs and supplies for the school. I also had the pleasure of making connections with other parents and gaining incites to their individual educational needs for their children. In my position as parent council president, I learned empathy and respect for all parents and students. I believe that our schools thrive when there is active parent involvement. Education thrives when parents, teachers, and administrators are all working together. I am thoroughly excited at the opportunity to serve on the education council and represent the diverse population of New York City public schools. Now more than ever, I believe it is important to work diligently to ensure that all of our children receive the free and appropriate education they are entitled to. With my past experiences, empathy, and tenacity, I feel like I would make an excellent addition to the Education Council. I humbly ask for your vote.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Kristie Montalvan	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75R037	YES	NO	My name is Kristie Montalvan and I have been a New York City Department of Education parent for almost 6 years. My oldest son is in the 4th grade in a district 31 general education classroom. I have 7 year old twins who are both in special education programs. My son is in 1st grade in the NEST program in a district 31 school. My daughter is in first grade in a district 75 school. I believe the experience of having children in three different NYC public schools, in two different school districts, gives me a very unique perspective. I am able to contribute my experiences with a variety of schools and programs to assist in making important and complex decisions on the education council. I have volunteered and participated in many PTAs and parent organizations over the last 6 years. I believe my time is the greatest contribution I can give toward my child's educational experience. From 2018-2019, I was the Parent Council President for my twins CPSE preschool. During my time running the parent council, I held monthly meetings with parents and staff and helped facilitate a symbiotic relationship between the school and parents. I organized several fundraisers and through my tenacity and perseverance, I was able to secure much needed funds for therapy programs and supplies for the school. I also had the pleasure of making connections with other parents and gaining incites to their individual educational needs for their children. In my position as parent council president, I learned empathy and respect for all parents and students. I believe that our schools thrive when there is active parent involvement. Education thrives when parents, teachers, and administrators are all working together. I am thoroughly excited at the opportunity to serve on the education council and represent the diverse population of New York City public schools. Now more than ever, I believe it is important to work diligently to ensure that all of our children receive the free and appropriate education they are entitled to. With my past experiences, empathy, and tenacity, I feel like I would make an excellent addition to the Education Council. I humbly ask for your vote.
Elmelek Moore	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	14K132	YES	NO	My name is El-Melek Moore, I am currently the parent of a former special needs student now in 5th grade G&T and a Special Needs 4th grade Inclusion Student both of which are now enrolled at PS 132, the Conselyea School. As the previous chairperson of New York City's administration for services citywide Headstart policy Council I was responsible for assisting New York City and a CS with providing over 12,500 children under five years and their families across all five boroughs with early learn and family literacy services.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Elmelek Moore	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	14K132	YES	NO	My name is El-Melek Moore, I am currently the parent of a former special needs student now in 5th grade G&T and a Special Needs 4th grade Inclusion Student both of which are now enrolled at PS 132, the Conselyea School. As the previous chairperson of New York City's administration for services citywide Headstart policy Council I was responsible for assisting New York City and a CS with providing over 12,500 children under five years and their families across all five boroughs with early learn and family literacy services.
Nia Moore Hines	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q256	YES	NO	I am the mother of a special needs young man and I have been an educator for two decades. I hold a permanent teaching certificate in NYS for Pre-K through Grade 6. My career as an educator began in 2000, as a group teacher in a community based day care center in the area of early childhood education. Later, I worked as an elementary school teacher for more than a decade where I taught general education and also co-taught in an ICT class. I am currently seeking certification to teach Students with Disabilities, Birth to Grade 2 because of my concern for and desire to serve the special needs population. I am currently enrolled at Hofstra University where I am pursuing a doctorate in education in the area of teaching and learning with a specialization in special education. I feel strongly about representing and advocating for individuals with special needs and felt compelled to serve as member on the School Leadership Team at my son's school. On this team we discuss issues and seek solutions to improve the school community that we serve. With my experience and credentials in the field of education, both personally and professionally, it is my ultimate goal to start a business that will allow me to care for individuals with special needs who do not have families by providing them with a loving, nurturing and safe family environment. I hope to have an opportunity to serve on the Education Council so that I may serve individuals with special needs in a greater capacity.
Angel Morales	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K505	YES	NO	Hello everyone my name is Angel Morales Jr. and I have two children. My daughter is in District 75 and my son is in a general school but has an IEP. I feel I would be a good candidate because I am always involved within the schools. I am currently a member of SLT for my son and daughters school. I am also involved in the PTA. I have always been my children's advocate and voice and would love to continue bringing that passion if I become elected to the Concil. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express myself.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Angel Morales	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K231	YES	NO	Hello everyone my name is Angel Morales Jr. and I have two children. My daughter is in District 75 and my son is in a general school but has an IEP. I feel I would be a good candidate because I am always involved within the schools. I am currently a member of SLT for my son and daughters school. I am also involved in the PTA. I have always been my children's advocate and voice and would love to continue bringing that passion if I become elected to the Concil. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express myself.
Kyna Moss	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K062	YES	YES	Having a child in special ed from kindergarten to the six grade has made me see how important being involved in the planning and executing of rules and regulations is over our children's lives. I would like to be active in making decisions and in giving input on what I've observed in my own child's progress, as it may be something that can contribute to helping another child. During this pandemic I have witnessed the psychological and emotional deterioration of my daughter and I've heard it in other kids as well In her class who have shed tears online about coronavirus. I am greatly concerned about the 12 year olds. I have no idea why but there seems to be more 12 year olds affected by feelings of isolation during this pandemic. And I think the schools have to find a safe way for those children who are doing homeschooling to have a class maybe where they have a play session or socialization class if you will. It should be conducted with a facilitator and all children must participate . Addressing some of these issues is my great honor to do if chosen.
Glenys Moya	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	07X223	YES	NO	
Lillian Moya	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q233	YES	NO	I would like to be apart of this opportunity because I have a child who is on the Autism spectrum receiving a yearly IEP. I believe I can make a difference on making goals to have stronger preparations for IEP's targeting specific goals and not just the average curriculum of a child's age. I would also try to improve the area of parents who lack in participation of the IEP's due to their language or understanding on what the child really needs. I am a mother now but when I was a child I was failed by the board of education resource room teachers. Most of my IEP meeting happen without my parents due to my mom's understanding in the IEP goals. I feel the board of ed also under staffs the department of special needs. District 75 should be able to have enough staff and tools to help kids with special needs. More children through out the years are being diagnosed with special needs we need to prepare our children for a proper future and not failures of just another kid in the system who ends up in a group home because they weren't given the proper tools to live up to their highest potential. Special needs children should be given the best tools to do their best in gaining a better future.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Najivie Muniz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q025	YES	NO	
Najivie Muniz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q430	YES	NO	
Poly Muzib	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q148	YES	NO	I was part of PTA group during the year of 2014-2015 at the school P.S./M.S.127Q and I also had volunteered in a kindergarten school for a year. I was inside the classroom working with a kindergarten teacher doing same chores ar paraprofesional do when they inside the classroom. I had alot of experience as a paraprofesional, parents volunteered.
Kea Myers	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X396	YES	NO	Hello Parents! I'm a stay-at-home mom of three children, all with IEPs. I'm also a small business Owner and Manager, and work from home, so I often spend many hours learning, understanding, and advocating for my children's special needs. Early Intervention and The Department of Education have been instrumental in supporting my children, but the process can be confusing and overwhelming. I want to do all I can to ensure that the system is easier to navigate, and families can achieve the same transformative academic and social experience that mine have. Previously, I served as Vice-President of the Parents Association at my children's school. This year, I want to join the CCSE to continue to advocate for my community, but also impact the city's special education system at its core. It would be my honor to serve on the CCSE, and I hope you grant me the opportunity to.
Dammag Nasser	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X083	NO	NO	
Dammag Nasser	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X083	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Erika Newsome	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X304	NO	NO	<p>My name is Erika Newsome and I am the current 2nd Vice President of the Citywide Council on Special Education. In my first term on the council, I was able to work with many passionate advocates to support individual families in the Bronx, Manhattan, and all over the city navigate the special education system. As COVID came in and changed the world, remote learning became the new normal. For parents with special needs, the ability to have a voice and get support is what made a difference for their families. As an EMT and adjunct professor teaching medical professionals, I found myself on the front lines and working closely with the REC and Learning Bridges Programs to advocate for children with IEPs to get their services and to also support the community organizations and school leaders to get the support they needed in those programs as well. My goal is to get elected for a second term and serve on the council to continue to support the families of NYC and those in District 8 and the Bronx. As an educator with over 20 years of experience in various types of classrooms from 3K to adult, including special education ICT, SETSS, and Self-Contained, I am able to understand the struggles the teachers have as they support our children in the classroom and work to get adequate resources to provide an enriching learning environment. Through my role as a former administrator, I understand the rules governing compliance and the complexities of getting professional development in the classroom to support the teachers who want to make a difference. As a parent leader, I have served on several PTAs and SLTs in Districts 2, 8, 11, and 12 as President, Co-President, and Chairperson of the SLT. I have also been a Title I Representative twice and part of a CET. In addition to my role on the CCSE, I am serving in District 8 at P.S. 304 as the First Vice President on the PTA. Finally, my role as a mother with two children with IEPs and two others in general education is what really pushes me to be involved and make a difference not only for my own children but for all of the children in my district and the New York City Public School System.</p>

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Erika Newsome	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X304	YES	NO	<p>My name is Erika Newsome and I am the current 2nd Vice President of the Citywide Council on Special Education. In my first term on the council, I was able to work with many passionate advocates to support individual families in the Bronx, Manhattan, and all over the city navigate the special education system. As COVID came in and changed the world, remote learning became the new normal. For parents with special needs, the ability to have a voice and get support is what made a difference for their families. As an EMT and adjunct professor teaching medical professionals, I found myself on the front lines and working closely with the REC and Learning Bridges Programs to advocate for children with IEPs to get their services and to also support the community organizations and school leaders to get the support they needed in those programs as well. My goal is to get elected for a second term and serve on the council to continue to support the families of NYC and those in District 8 and the Bronx. As an educator with over 20 years of experience in various types of classrooms from 3K to adult, including special education ICT, SETSS, and Self-Contained, I am able to understand the struggles the teachers have as they support our children in the classroom and work to get adequate resources to provide an enriching learning environment. Through my role as a former administrator, I understand the rules governing compliance and the complexities of getting professional development in the classroom to support the teachers who want to make a difference. As a parent leader, I have served on several PTAs and SLTs in Districts 2, 8, 11, and 12 as President, Co-President, and Chairperson of the SLT. I have also been a Title I Representative twice and part of a CET. In addition to my role on the CCSE, I am serving in District 8 at P.S. 304 as the First Vice President on the PTA. Finally, my role as a mother with two children with IEPs and two others in general education is what really pushes me to be involved and make a difference not only for my own children but for all of the children in my district and the New York City Public School System.</p>



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Erika Newsome	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	08X371	NO	NO	My name is Erika Newsome and I am the current 2nd Vice President of the Citywide Council on Special Education. In my first term on the council, I was able to work with many passionate advocates to support individual families in the Bronx, Manhattan, and all over the city navigate the special education system. As COVID came in and changed the world, remote learning became the new normal. For parents with special needs, the ability to have a voice and get support is what made a difference for their families. As an EMT and adjunct professor teaching medical professionals, I found myself on the front lines and working closely with the REC and Learning Bridges Programs to advocate for children with IEPs to get their services and to also support the community organizations and school leaders to get the support they needed in those programs as well. My goal is to get elected for a second term and serve on the council to continue to support the families of NYC and those in District 8 and the Bronx. As an educator with over 20 years of experience in various types of classrooms from 3K to adult, including special education ICT, SETSS, and Self-Contained, I am able to understand the struggles the teachers have as they support our children in the classroom and work to get adequate resources to provide an enriching learning environment. Through my role as a former administrator, I understand the rules governing compliance and the complexities of getting professional development in the classroom to support the teachers who want to make a difference. As a parent leader, I have served on several PTAs and SLTs in Districts 2, 8, 11, and 12 as President, Co-President, and Chairperson of the SLT. I have also been a Title I Representative twice and part of a CET. In addition to my role on the CCSE, I am serving in District 8 at P.S. 304 as the First Vice President on the PTA. Finally, my role as a mother with two children with IEPs and two others in general education is what really pushes me to be involved and make a difference not only for my own children but for all of the children in my district and the New York City Public School System.
Xing Ng	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M539	NO	NO	
Xing Ng	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M539	YES	NO	
Siriwan Ngaopitakhul	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q300	YES	YES	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Darnae Nickens	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M226	YES	NO	My name is Darna� Nickens and it would be a pleasure to serve on an Education Council. More Specifically, an Education Council for Special education. I have always been heavily influenced and intrigued by education and the advancement of education. Three years ago, my son was evaluated and diagnosed with mild autism. It was a new experience that i knew close to nothing about. After a very emotional realization, i understood that i needed to pull it together for my child to get the best services available. The DOE was very helpful and assisted with information necessary to get my son on the right path. I went to meetings and met several parents of children just like my son. Many of them were new , didn't know much about services, and some were even afraid to ask for additional help because they didn't want to label their child.. I realized that many people lack awareness, acceptance, or the tools to assist special needs persons in the school system and society. I made it my duty to research and enroll in school for a Masters in Public Administration to enhance my public speaking skills and qualifications to lead in the community. I learned how to develop constructive action plans that include budgets, programming, funding, etc. My dedication to enhancing my knowledge, skills, abilities and other characteristics was also very rewarding. Upon completion of the program, I was inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the International Honors Society for Public Administration In the future, as a leader and a parent, i would like to fight and advocate for the advancement of special needs individuals in schools and society.
Ramona Niederhausern	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M158	NO	NO	I am a Mechanical and Energy Engineer and Software Developer. I love all math including probability and I am a researcher for life. I've been in various teaching positions since I started teaching K-12 at a high needs public school district in the South at age 17. I've been Cubmaster for Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scout Leader for a STEM troop I created with Girl Scouts of America. Last year I left a volunteering position with a large Women's organization where I had been the President for 1.5 years. My primary role was to teach and help women progress their life. I currently teach religious history. Tragedies caused by mental illnesses in my family have defined who I am and created my desire to use my knowledge to better our educational system, and to specifically integrate Mental Health Education into our curriculum. Overall my life has been amazing and I am very happy. I am a mother and loving it! I am a wife and happily married, my husband supports me in working long hours. I am the oldest sister of six children. I am always a student, looking to gain knowledge from ground up in everything I do.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ramona Niederhausern	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M158	YES	NO	I am a Mechanical and Energy Engineer and Software Developer. I love all math including probability and I am a researcher for life. I've been in various teaching positions since I started teaching K-12 at a high needs public school district in the South at age 17. I've been Cubmaster for Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scout Leader for a STEM troop I created with Girt Scouts of America. Last year I left a volunteering position with a large Women's organization where I had been the President for 1.5 years. My primary role was to teach and help women progress their life. I currently teach religious history. Tragedies caused by mental illnesses in my family have defined who I am and created my desire to use my knowledge to better our educational system, and to specifically integrate Mental Health Education into our curriculum. Overall my life has been amazing and I am very happy. I am a mother and loving it! I am a wife and happily married, my husband supports me in working long hours. I am the oldest sister of six children. I am always a student, looking to gain knowledge from ground up in everything I do.
Ramona Niederhausern	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M146	NO	NO	I am a Mechanical and Energy Engineer and Software Developer. I love all math including probability and I am a researcher for life. I've been in various teaching positions since I started teaching K-12 at a high needs public school district in the South at age 17. I've been Cubmaster for Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scout Leader for a STEM troop I created with Girt Scouts of America. Last year I left a volunteering position with a large Women's organization where I had been the President for 1.5 years. My primary role was to teach and help women progress their life. I currently teach religious history. Tragedies caused by mental illnesses in my family have defined who I am and created my desire to use my knowledge to better our educational system, and to specifically integrate Mental Health Education into our curriculum. Overall my life has been amazing and I am very happy. I am a mother and loving it! I am a wife and happily married, my husband supports me in working long hours. I am the oldest sister of six children. I am always a student, looking to gain knowledge from ground up in everything I do.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Christine Noble	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X455	YES	NO	My name is Christine Noble and I think that serving as part of Education Council is important because you get to be a part of the conversations that impact your child and the community. I was part of the CEC in district 8 and I attended every meeting that was given because I wanted to know and learn how to better support my son who is a student with an IEP and I was also part of the Parent Association. Many parents don't know the impact of their presence at these meetings and once I started attending I felt like I was a respected part of my education and school community because I got the information that the parents felt was vital to them. I was also able to encourage more parents to come to meetings by giving metro cards and sharing cab rides. I feel since we are now in a time when the fate of education in the schools is uncertain I can share my experiences and opinions about how I feel as a parent so we can move in a positive way towards making sure all students have access to technology and curriculum that they need to have a successful school year in spite of covid 19. I feel very sorry for all the students that could not celebrate their graduations during 2020. I think that there should be a conversation about how that can be achieved for our children who lost out. I also volunteer in my community at a local food pantry and have donated turkeys and numerous toys to kids in shelters to make sure they have everything they need while going through this tough time.
Safiya Norman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q067	NO	NO	
Safiya Norman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q067	YES	NO	
Vivian Nunez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q277	YES	NO	Although I have not participated in civic organizations, I am very strong in the advocacy of children with special needs and have a very clear understanding and experience in education, student and staff development, training and technology. In addition, I would love the opportunity to participate in championing ideas to improve the current education system specifically within District 75.
Olayinka Odutayo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R078	YES	NO	
Erika Olajire-Kearse	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X041	YES	NO	
Denise Olivo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X449	NO	NO	SERVING ON AN EDUCATION COUNCIL IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE AS A WORKING MOTHER I UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT SCENARIO THAT PARENT GO BY AND BEING ABLE TO ASSIST STUDENTS AND PARENT IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING TO DO. I CAN SHARE IDEAS THAT CAN BENEFIT FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS SCHOOL STAFF.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Denise Olivo	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X449	YES	NO	SERVING ON AN EDUCATION COUNCIL IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE AS A WORKING MOTHER I UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT SCENARIO THAT PARENT GO BY AND BEING ABLE TO ASSIT STUDENTS AND PARENT IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING TO DO. I CAN SHARE IDEAS THAT CAN BENEFITS FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS SCHOOL STAFF.
Adeyemi Oloruntoba	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X068	NO	NO	I am a wartime veteran of the United States Air Force and the current vice Commander of the American Legion in the Borough of Bronx, but the Commander of the veterans in Co-op City. I was the former President of the Rotary Club of the Bronx, a non-for-profit philanthropic organization that better the need of the underprivileged worldwide. I have lived in the Bronx since I moved to New York City after my meritorious and honorable service to the nation. As a former Community board member in Bronx District 12, I was a member of the education committee and the chairperson of parks and recreation committee of the same board while serving the community. As a father of two girls in public school, my girls attend PS68. I have always lived in the Bronx, but due to the disability that one of my daughters displayed at an early age, she was attending school in Westchester County until the 2019/2020 school year when she moved to the City. With my experience in Westchester County and as a parent of a child in Blythdale School, I noticed quickly that I will be settling down for a system that was totally different from where my child was coming from. Thus, I decided to be more proactive in the system here in the Bronx vis-À-vis New York City Education system. It was clear that we will not have access to the same resources my daughter was used to while in Westchester County. Thus, I was elected as the President of PS68 Parents Teachers Association, with an automatic seat on the School Leadership Team at the same time. In the same year, I was the treasurer of the Presidents' Council of District 11. During my time serving in these capacities, I witnessed so many things that made me believe that the schools our children go to have a lot to do with their future. The school system does not offer these children the same opportunity across the board as one would expect to learn of the largest school district in America. Unfortunately, while I was so determined to lend my voice as change agent in the year of my service, the pandemic hit. Everyone must learn the new normal through the pandemic and it was more of an eye opener in the horrible situation of the system in the City as far as the school system is concerned. I strongly believe that we will need strong, experienced leadership in the Community Education Council in this new era to help the New York City Department of Education recover from the pandemic. This pandemic has exposed and reinforced the ills of the system we have here in the City. I could not believe how students access to sound education will hinge on workable devices and internet access. We struggled through the new era, with parents having less opportunity in the decision that shape the future of their children. I learnt firsthand how important we need to invest

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Adeyemi Oloruntoba	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X068	YES	NO	<p>I am a wartime veteran of the United States Air Force and the current Vice Commander of the American Legion in the Borough of Bronx, but the Commander of the veterans in Co-op City. I was the former President of the Rotary Club of the Bronx, a non-for-profit philanthropic organization that better the need of the underprivileged worldwide. I have lived in the Bronx since I moved to New York City after my meritorious and honorable service to the nation. As a former Community board member in Bronx District 12, I was a member of the education committee and the chairperson of parks and recreation committee of the same board while serving the community. As a father of two girls in public school, my girls attend PS68. I have always lived in the Bronx, but due to the disability that one of my daughters displayed at an early age, she was attending school in Westchester County until the 2019/2020 school year when she moved to the City. With my experience in Westchester County and as a parent of a child in Blythdale School, I noticed quickly that I will be settling down for a system that was totally different from where my child was coming from. Thus, I decided to be more proactive in the system here in the Bronx vis-à-vis New York City Education system. It was clear that we will not have access to the same resources my daughter was used to while in Westchester County. Thus, I was elected as the President of PS68 Parents Teachers Association, with an automatic seat on the School Leadership Team at the same time. In the same year, I was the treasurer of the Presidents' Council of District 11. During my time serving in these capacities, I witnessed so many things that made me believe that the schools our children go to have a lot to do with their future. The school system does not offer these children the same opportunity across the board as one would expect to learn of the largest school district in America. Unfortunately, while I was so determined to lend my voice as change agent in the year of my service, the pandemic hit. Everyone must learn the new normal through the pandemic and it was more of an eye opener in the horrible situation of the system in the City as far as the school system is concerned. I strongly believe that we will need strong, experienced leadership in the Community Education Council in this new era to help the New York City Department of Education recover from the pandemic. This pandemic has exposed and reinforced the ills of the system we have here in the City. I could not believe how students access to sound education will hinge on workable devices and internet access. We struggled through the new era, with parents having less opportunity in the decision that shape the future of their children. I learnt firsthand how important we need to invest</p>

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Kiswauna Orr	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X352	YES	NO	Hi, my name is Kiswauna Orr. I am a mother of two. Brooklyn born and raised, and now living in the Boogie Down Bronx. I feel like I would be a great candidate for city council because I'm a mother with a child who has Autism and attends district 75. I also work with Children. I place no barrier on my child and other children like him and not like him. I believe children are a sponge and what they pick up and learn is a direct reflection of the guardians, teachers, care givers that they have encountered. I want to be about of those challenging conversations that turn into resolution. I want to share my experiences, hear from others about theirs and build a greater community of learning and teaching for our children.
Abygail Ortiz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	13K674	YES	NO	
Abygail Ortiz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K373	YES	NO	
Alysa Oshea	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q525	YES	NO	I believe in a high quality, challenging education for every student in all NYC DOE Public Schools. I am currently serving as a Queens Borough President Appointee on Community Education Council District 27. I was first selected for an interim position under BP Melinda Katz in December of 2018. I was then re-appointed for the 2019/2021 term, serving under BP Sharon Lee and BP Donovan Richards. I was elected the Council's Treasurer for 2019/2020, and I now perform the duties of Parliamentarian for 2020/21. I am also an active member of the The Education Council Consortium (ECC) and regularly represent my Council at monthly meetings. I am an involved parent volunteer and a dedicated advocate for Students with Disabilities (SWD) in the public school system. I am an active member of the Townsend Harris High School PTA and previously volunteered for The Scholars' Academy PA from 2017 “ 2020. I also serve as a Co-Secretary for PLACE NYC (Parent Leaders for Accelerated Curriculum and Education) since August 2020. I am a member of both the Rockaway Beach Civic Association and Rockaway Artists Alliance and am very involved in my local community. I also volunteer as a Fundraiser and Grant Writer for Laru Beya Collective, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to empowering the underrepresented youth of the Rockaways through surfing. I helped this organization raise over \$15,000 for community arts and culture in my neighborhood in 2020. If elected to the Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS) for Queens or the Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE), I promise to serve all students and families to the best of my ability. It is not always easy to show up and fight for quality and accountability in education. I have a proven track record for speaking up about what I believe in and engaging in meaningful dialogue to create positive change in our school system.



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Akilah Osorio	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q189	YES	NO	I am a parent and advocate for 5 children; proactive in advocating for individuals and their families. I am already on the CEC for District 25 for almost 2 years now. I have a passion for helping others who are disadvantaged, speaking out on their behalf, representing them, helping them solve any concerns and gaining knowledge on how to seek any services that might need. I would like the opportunity to partner with a wide range of individuals and organizations to broaden the ability to serve and advocate for all children and families across the District. I would love to continue to advocate in making sure our children get the tools the need to succeed in life.
Akilah Osorio	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q240	YES	NO	I am a parent and advocate for 5 children; proactive in advocating for individuals and their families. I am already on the CEC for District 25 for almost 2 years now. I have a passion for helping others who are disadvantaged, speaking out on their behalf, representing them, helping them solve any concerns and gaining knowledge on how to seek any services that might need. I would like the opportunity to partner with a wide range of individuals and organizations to broaden the ability to serve and advocate for all children and families across the District. I would love to continue to advocate in making sure our children get the tools the need to succeed in life.
Kimberly Paige	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M241	YES	NO	Hello, My name is Kimberly Paige. I have had the opportunity to serve in district 3 for approximately 20 years. I have served on the PTA for PS/IS 76 and as a SLT member. Being a Co-President came with many challenges, but became very satisfying, knowing that my participation in the school district would help many.
Carmen Paredes-Pacheco	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M104	YES	NO	
Carmen Paredes-Pacheco	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M340	YES	NO	
Enma Parra	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q550	YES	YES	



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Brenida Parsons	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X168	YES	NO	My name is Brenida Parsons, Bronx Native for over 30 years and a mother of three children. All of my children are products of NYC Public School System. My oldest two have graduated from high schools in the Bronx and continued their education with CUNY. My youngest is in a District 75 school and is excelling in his academics. I believe I would be a great candidate to represent families from the inner city, whose children are struggling with resources, information and vital communication from their school and/or districts. I have over 20 years of experience of working hand-in-hand with faculty and staff in order to receive the right accommodations for my children. I have been a member of Parent Teachers Association as a Treasurer at Bronx Writing and Communication High School (Evander Childs Campus), school fundraisers both in high schools and elementary schools and I have been apart of transformative meetings and conferences. I hope you choose me to represent your family and especially our future, our children. Thank you Brenida Parsons
Janequa Parsons	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X033	YES	NO	

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Matthew Pasher	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M408	YES	NO	<p>My Name is Matthew Pasher and I would love the opportunity to effect change in our educational system. As a parent in Elementary School I worked with the PTA and was responsible for fundraising for a year. This helped effect change @ PS 212/Midtown west and after stopping I continued to work raising money and attending diversity meetings which was a real hot button issue for me. As my daughter enters Middle school @ PPAS I have started to think long and hard how I would like children to be taught in the classroom. Acquiring my BA in History from Kenyon college I was always encouraged to be inquisitive to find out the truth, but have lately over the past 5-10 lamented on whether what I was taught was the truth warts and all. What I want for all students in the classroom is for teachers and educators to provide an environment of engagement and encouragement. Children are only challenged when the information that they are given is challenging and fun. While I agree there is an important aspect to having structure, If we are too structured and not willing to look at all view points, children are not encouraged to come up with their own ideas. There is also a real need for diversity to be a greater part of the curriculum. Education needs to not only be inclusive regarding what we teach but who we teach about as well as who teaches. I get quite frustrated with "tenure" style teachers who rest on their laurels. I really believe we need new engaging teachers who challenge the children. Paying teachers more is also important and I would hope that this opportunity to give me the chance to advocate for great new teachers who can engage and encourage our students. This past year has presented many challenges and being a part of this group will also allow me to help possibly plan how we can engage our kids coming back with lots of care and understanding tempered in. Thanks so much for your consideration All the Best Matthew C. Pasher.</p>

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Jose Paulino	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X413	YES	NO	As a person that came to this Country at the age of three, I have attended New York City public school all my life. I have seen how the system has failed us as students at times and how it has lifted us at times. Throughout the years I have seen how different students learn. This is helpful because we are all grouped together and expected to learn the information being given to us. This is a problem because not everyone learns the same way. We need to change parts of the system to better fit our students and our generation. We need to do a better job at preparing our student for the future and for being an active member of society. Students leave high school not knowing a thing of what it takes to be an adult. This is where our Educational system fails us as students. We need to make sure that we prepare our students for the future and how not only to survive but also strive in society. I will be able to hear the voices of my peers and be their voice in the council. I want our voices to be heard and to see changes happening because now is the time to make those changes before it is too late.
Joanna Pauperowicz	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q157	YES	NO	
Elias Pena	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M198	YES	NO	
Rosayna Perez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q356	YES	NO	
Johanny Perez Cuevas	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M180	YES	YES	
Yelena Pikman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R050	YES	NO	Hi my name is Yelena Pikman and I am a parent of a current 5th grader who is on an IEP and a now 9th grader who was on an IEP until 8th grade. I have been involved in PTA's since my older son started school and have been a very involved parent for special needs kids and those who have an IEP. Now especially since we are mostly remote I see how much this has impacted my younger child and I want to do anything I can to help the community. I currently sit as a title 1 co-chair at New Dorp high school and am the parliamentarian for the Executive Board. I look forward to serving for another 8 years until my younger child exits high school and hope to impact the community and children as much as possible.
Yelena Pikman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R440	YES	NO	Hi my name is Yelena Pikman and I am a parent of a current 5th grader who is on an IEP and a now 9th grader who was on an IEP until 8th grade. I have been involved in PTA's since my older son started school and have been a very involved parent for special needs kids and those who have an IEP. Now especially since we are mostly remote I see how much this has impacted my younger child and I want to do anything I can to help the community. I currently sit as a title 1 co-chair at New Dorp high school and am the parliamentarian for the Executive Board. I look forward to serving for another 8 years until my younger child exits high school and hope to impact the community and children as much as possible.

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Gina Plotkin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R023	YES	NO	
Gina Plotkin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R024	NO	NO	
Gina Plotkin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R047	YES	NO	
Paola Ponce	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q415	YES	NO	
Elsie Porto	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M372	YES	NO	My name is Elsie Figueroa. I'm a mother of four children. I'm the PTA President for Mosaic Prep Academy. I work as Funeral Director with all the work I have I still make time to assert myself in my children studies. It's important for us as parent to be present in our children studies so they can have all the support they need.
Elsie Porto	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M375	NO	NO	My name is Elsie Figueroa. I'm a mother of four children. I'm the PTA President for Mosaic Prep Academy. I work as Funeral Director with all the work I have I still make time to assert myself in my children studies. It's important for us as parent to be present in our children studies so they can have all the support they need.
Karla Quervalu	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K239	YES	NO	
Karla Quervalu	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K206	NO	NO	
Melissa Quiles	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R861	NO	NO	
Melissa Quiles	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R861	YES	NO	
Ashley Quiller	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q132	YES	NO	I am a parent of two boys that receive related services. I am here to help my community and families have a better understanding of special education and what good values they bring to help the children. This is one way to be able to get back to my community I love working with kids and families.
Ysabel Quispe	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	32K123	YES	YES	

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Rolanda Rachiel	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K195	NO	NO	<p>I am a born and raised American with parents that migrated from Russia in the 1970's, They migrated to America not knowing the English language or any idea as to where they were going to live and what was in store for them. There was one thing they were sure about and that was for their children and future grandchildren to have an opportunity to have the freedom to learn all that they can in a country which was full of opportunity and hope. I have always been a great student and advanced to attend Albany University. I have worked in finance for over 15 years and have watch our school system change for the worst. Today I am a single mother to a 5 year old boy and a 6 year old daughter. Both attended a Russian private school because I am the sole provider and have no help from their father or the system. I tried to get vouchers but they denied me and I was forced to transfer them to public school with only remote learning being offered. I am sitting near my son who's school hours in private school were 8 hour days and now in public school are 1 hour a day, this is not an education and if this continues our future in this country is doomed as we will have absolutely no leaders. Both children were learning math and reading 1 year ahead of their usual kindergarten and 1st grade level and were advanced now after transferring them I am witnessing them taking 2 steps back and learning site words and how to count from 1-10. This to me is unacceptable learning and I would like to have a voice for so may parents in our community who feel the same way. Among being that voice of reason to help find solutions to help make the future of our children a bright future and not one where they are delayed and denied the education which they so deserve and parents nit being able to work such as myself and have to stay home doing the work for the children. this has to be addressed and I'm ready to fight for it given this opportunity.</p>

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Jessica Ramirez-Cabral	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K201	NO	NO	<p>Good Afternoon, My name is Jessica Cabral I am a mother of five children in various age groups ranging from second to tenth grade with two having an IEP. I am currently recording Secretary on the PTA at PS204 and the Corresponding Secretary at New Utrecht H.S. as well as being a part of the Title one Parent committee. I have volunteered with school based support since my oldest was in first grade and I pride myself on being a part of the school system and engaging in the school community. I work well with all personnel in the DOE and have a great working relationship with many people. My hope with applying for this position is to learn while making a difference in some areas of the school system that might need changing. I am able to communicate professionally and keep an open mind with all conversations that may be hand in regards to DOE policy and situations that may arise. I would like to be part of this panel because I have been a part of the DOE for many years and feel this is something that I and the children we service will benefit from. As we all have children in the NYC School system we all want what is best for our children and strive to keep them learning and safe as well as our teachers and staff. As part of your council I will continue to learn about my part as a parent and council member and hope to give great insight on issues or give credit to what needs to be praised as we have embarked on this crazy journey called covid we as a system and a team should always continue to strive to be the best that we can be for ourselves and our children. Thank you for your consideration and time Best regards, Jessica Cabral</p>

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Jessica Ramirez-Cabral	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K204	NO	NO	<p>Good Afternoon, My name is Jessica Cabral I am a mother of five children in various age groups ranging from second to tenth grade with two having an IEP. I am currently recording Secretary on the PTA at PS204 and the Corresponding Secretary at New Utrecht H.S. as well as being a part of the Title one Parent committee. I have volunteered with school based support since my oldest was in first grade and I pride myself on being a part of the school system and engaging in the school community. I work well with all personnel in the DOE and have a great working relationship with many people. My hope with applying for this position is to learn while making a difference in some areas of the school system that might need changing. I am able to communicate professionally and keep an open mind with all conversations that may be hand in regards to DOE policy and situations that may arise. I would like to be part of this panel because I have been a part of the DOE for many years and feel this is something that I and the children we service will benefit from. As we all have children in the NYC School system we all want what is best for our children and strive to keep them learning and safe as well as our teachers and staff. As part of your council I will continue to learn about my part as a parent and council member and hope to give great insight on issues or give credit to what needs to be praised as we have embarked on this crazy journey called covid we as a system and a team should always continue to strive to be the best that we can be for ourselves and our children. Thank you for your consideration and time Best regards, Jessica Cabral</p>



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Jessica Ramirez-Cabral	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K204	YES	NO	<p>Good Afternoon, My name is Jessica Cabral I am a mother of five children in various age groups ranging from second to tenth grade with two having an IEP. I am currently recording Secretary on the PTA at PS204 and the Corresponding Secretary at New Utrecht H.S. as well as being a part of the Title one Parent committee. I have volunteered with school based support since my oldest was in first grade and I pride myself on being a part of the school system and engaging in the school community. I work well with all personnel in the DOE and have a great working relationship with many people. My hope with applying for this position is to learn while making a difference in some areas of the school system that might need changing. I am able to communicate professionally and keep an open mind with all conversations that may be hand in regards to DOE policy and situations that may arise. I would like to be part of this panel because I have been a part of the DOE for many years and feel this is something that I and the children we service will benefit from. As we all have children in the NYC School system we all want what is best for our children and strive to keep them learning and safe as well as our teachers and staff. As part of your council I will continue to learn about my part as a parent and council member and hope to give great insight on issues or give credit to what needs to be praised as we have embarked on this crazy journey called covid we as a system and a team should always continue to strive to be the best that we can be for ourselves and our children. Thank you for your consideration and time Best regards, Jessica Cabral</p>

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Jessica Ramirez-Cabral	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K445	YES	NO	Good Afternoon, My name is Jessica Cabral I am a mother of five children in various age groups ranging from second to tenth grade with two having an IEP. I am currently recording Secretary on the PTA at PS204 and the Corresponding Secretary at New Utrecht H.S. as well as being a part of the Title one Parent committee. I have volunteered with school based support since my oldest was in first grade and I pride myself on being a part of the school system and engaging in the school community. I work well with all personnel in the DOE and have a great working relationship with many people. My hope with applying for this position is to learn while making a difference in some areas of the school system that might need changing. I am able to communicate professionally and keep an open mind with all conversations that may be hand in regards to DOE policy and situations that may arise. I would like to be part of this panel because I have been a part of the DOE for many years and feel this is something that I and the children we service will benefit from. As we all have children in the NYC School system we all want what is best for our children and strive to keep them learning and safe as well as our teachers and staff. As part of your council I will continue to learn about my part as a parent and council member and hope to give great insight on issues or give credit to what needs to be praised as we have embarked on this crazy journey called covid we as a system and a team should always continue to strive to be the best that we can be for ourselves and our children. Thank you for your consideration and time Best regards, Jessica Cabral
Lydia Ramos	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q485	YES	NO	

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Tamaira Reid	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M003	YES	NO	There are over 200,000 students with disabilities in the NYC public school system. My son is one of them. His first word “ hiiii ” didn't come until he was nearly three years old, but when it did, we both lost it. I cried because the sound of his voice as it formed around that word was the moment I knew he'd be okay, he would make it. And he cried because it plain shocked the hell out him. Since then, I've learned to navigate the Special Education system by way of the Department of Education; this is an ongoing, often grueling and frustrating process. I have had to learn what is afforded to my child by law, under the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act, and to identify when his civil right to an œequal and appropriate education Æhas been violated. Together we have weathered the storm of the Early Intervention experience and subsequent clinical evaluation and diagnostic tests (beginning at age 2), secured a spot in a center-based preschool after having to apply and go through a harrowing vetting and admissions process, have attended dozens of IEP meetings with teachers, specialists, social workers, and DOE representatives, have benefitted from endless hours of therapy and interventions by fantastically devoted, skilled, and dedicated educators, and ultimately transitioned to a public school special education program with an ICT classroom designation on his IEP. Needless to say, this has not been an easy road. As a mother and single parent, I've had to watch my son work his ass off, to the point of complete mental and physical exhaustion, at an age when other kids were enjoying playing in the sandbox. A behavioral therapist would show up at our apartment at 6 am, to help get through the process of simply getting dressed for school, which often took a good two hours of trial and error. And you know what? Ollie has never felt sorry for himself. He has never complained. He's made sacrifices and adjustments to his childhood routine that no child should have to make, and he's done it with grace, determination, and diligence. And the reason for this is quite simple: the kid loves to learn. Not the stuff a parent teaches “ the daily talks about this and that, the conversations about the way the world works “ he enjoys that, but I'm talking about straight-up academics, math and reading, writing, science, all of the lifelines of information that have finally opened up to him because of his IEP and the special education teachers who have given him access to his own, beautiful brain. Sadly, since going remote in March, I have watched this joy for learning disappear with each new day. I've witnessed an unraveling, a steady and powerful regression that has me up most nights worrying, scared for my child, knowing all too well how precarious his situation really is. It is so easy to forget your child is
Talia Reynoso	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q019	YES	NO	
Talia Reynoso	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q019	YES	YES	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Jacquelyn Rezza	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K447	YES	NO	My name is Jacquelyn Rezza and I am running for a position on the Education Council. I have a 13 year old son who is in the ASD Nest Program. He's been in this program since he was 5 years old. Prior to that, he received special education services through The Brooklyn Children's Program at United Cerebral Palsy Center Of New York City. When we first started his journey, I knew basically nothing about Autism, navigating the NYC DOE, communicating with educators and figuring out IEP's. It was challenging to say the least, but I had help from fellow parents and his teachers. There really is truth to "it takes a village". Especially in today's world. I know how important community is when it comes to our children's education. We should lift up our fellow parents. The schools should know we have their backs, but we will hold them accountable when need be. I am running for a spot because I want to see your kid and their school succeed too.
Nikkia Richardson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q560	YES	NO	
Nikkia Richardson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q151	NO	NO	
Ilka Rios	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	12X511	YES	NO	Hi, My name is Ilka Rios and I am the parent of a 14 year old H.S. Freshman with an IEP. I have served as the former CEC President for D12 for 4 terms under 3 Superintendents. I've also held seats on the Dlt as well as the Slit's in my daughter's school. I was the PTA Treasurer in her middle school & I am currently the PA President of her H.S. My daughter has been full remote since the start of the Pandemic but I have been helping the families in my community with my Council. Throughout this pandemic we have fed over 5K families even on Christmas Eve with the help of our District staff. My hope is to continue bringing knowledge and help to as many families as possible as it's my calling. I believe any parent who takes on the position should be willing to put in the work and anyone you speak with will tell you I am that parent up to the task. I hope to gain more knowledge with this new chapter by joining the H.S level.
Jackeline Rivera	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q216	YES	NO	There are some loopholes that have to be addressed in underserved IEP communities everywhere in NYC, as the pandemic has hit. These issues will not and should not be seen as being limited by the pandemic. Instead, we should be asking ourselves how we can help the students that need special attention in their work.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Carmen Robles	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M414	YES	NO	My name is Carmen Robles my son is a junior at NYC Museum School H.S. I was on CEC D6 for 3 years. I'm a current member of CCSE appointee to CCHS, and Recording Secretary to CCHS. I've been a VP in the PTA in my son's school. I attend Chancellor's parent Advisory Council, Panel of Education Policy, D6 District Leadership Team, School Leadership Team, Citywide Council on H.S., Citywide Council on Special Education, Education Consortium Council, Manhattan President's Council on H.S. meeting. I enjoy helping students with IEP, and parent's who are unable to attend meetings. I love to help empower parent's to advocate for themselves.
Indira Rodgers	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X723	YES	NO	As a mother of two children with special education; I will make sure all children get the attention needed for them to pass all grades and move into regular schools. I will try to eliminate the labels that these special education students endure and put a positive energy towards the word special education. Quite often they too are affected by the negativity it entails, we must fix that! Special education is not a defect, it should be a tool for betterment to children who are not as fast as the regular children. There are a plethora of great children listed under special education that are talented all they need are the right teachers to find that gem. My goal is to find the special in special education and uplift our students.
Tammy Rodriguez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M171	YES	NO	The education system In the United States has struggled To maintain resources in Special Education for our urban youth. Students are struggling with their grades to advanced to the next grades. During this pandemic, especially, students have had to adapt themselves to a new classroom and/ or a new school culture. They have suffered academically and personally. I have seen students with IEP's who struggled in the classroom with support now still struggling with added stressors. Many Special Education students and well as General Education students are struggling with Self regulation and discipline. I am a mother of 2 public school students. One student who is in High School and currently has an IEP and an honor student. I have also attended every IEP meeting for both of my children. I also have an eighth grader whom is a former IEP student who is now an honor student. I am a licensed music teacher who currently teaches in the Archdiocese of NYC. I also tutor reading and math for title 1 students within the Archdiocese of NYC. I currently have completed my Masters in Special Education. I am anticipating In acquiring my Teaching license for Special Education by July of 2021. I feel that I am a good candidate for the council because of my teaching background as well as having students who are former and current IEP students. I have a passion for the education system for NYC.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Tammy Rodriguez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X442	YES	NO	<p>The education system In the United States has struggled To maintain resources in Special Education for our urban youth. Students are struggling with their grades to advanced to the next grades. During this pandemic, especially, students have had to adapt themselves to a new classroom and/ or a new school culture. They have suffered academically and personally. I have seen students with IEP's who struggled in the classroom with support now still struggling with added stressors. Many Special Education students and well as General Education students are struggling with Self regulation and discipline. I am a mother of 2 public school students. One student who is in High School and currently has an IEP and an honor student. I have also attended every IEP meeting for both of my children. I also have an eighth grader whom is a former IEP student who is now an honor student. I am a licensed music teacher who currently teaches in the Archdiocese of NYC. I also tutor reading and math for title 1 students within the Archdiocese of NYC. I currently have completed my Masters in Special Education. I am anticipating In acquiring my Teaching license for Special Education by July of 2021. I feel that I am a good candidate for the council because of my teaching background as well as having students who are former and current IEP students. I have a passion for the education system for NYC.</p>
Kareem Rolland	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M316	YES	NO	<p>Good day ladies and gentlemen, I am Kareem B. Rolland a parent of two NYC public school students. I speak to you this evening with hope and determination for our children's educational future. The experiences I have had with my child and the public school system I can only assume mimics the experiences of parents throughout the city. Let me say first it has not been all bad. Not by a long shot. I have encountered some genuine professionals who have given their craft unsurmountable attention, care, and devotion. But it does not end there. Like a chef these individuals not only served education, but they also put a personal spice on its delivery that transcends the most resilient pallet. Also like a chef these educators need a "gallery" and atmosphere with which to create in. They need broader programs that encourage colorful interpretations of the curriculum. Policies that reward excellent educators as well as structures that protect them. In this pursuit we will find that some "cooks" that cannot stand the heat of a focused and robust pedagogy kitchen. I am also of the belief a user-friendly framework will attract more talented and resourceful recruits back to the profession. I say this all to briefly summarize why this world view that I have is one that is shared amongst my constituents. I humbly seek the opportunity to expand upon our combined outlook concerning the future of our children's education. Thank you. Best Regards, Kareem B. Rolland</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Reham Romhen	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R058	YES	NO	
Reham Romhen	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R075	NO	NO	
Susan Rosa	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	07X029	YES	NO	Hello, I usually don't participate in any votes elections , PTA Meetings ect. I am however a very active parent behind the scenes. Every voice counts, bring that the world has changed before our very eyes. I feel there are so many ways to get parents more active with joining clubs, meetings ect. I'm doing this to get more involved in my children education, how to help them and their teachers.
Melissa Rosado-Taveras	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X175	NO	NO	Serving on a Community Education Council is important to me for many reasons. For me, education is of the upmost importance in our family and there is nothing more I would like to do than to help in anyway possible to better the schools, curriculum, and policies. I believe in growth and achievement for all children regardless of race, gender, and economic status, not only academically but socially, emotionally and artistically. I am a mom of two daughters, one who is special needs and has been on an IEP since she was 2 years old. I understand the importance of education as well as community and family supports and if being on his committee can help foster those relationships, then I would love to be a part of this council. I am a very active parent not only in my children's' school but also in my community. I am currently serving my third year on the SLT at my daughters' school which I find extremely informative and helpful. I am able to voice my concerns easily as well as the concerns of the parents in my school. I have been an active participant in the PTA of my school and I have assisted in coordinating events and activities pre-pandemic. In addition, I am a coleader to a Girl Scout troop here in the Bronx and this experience has really taught me about community involvement and what it means to stand up for something that is important to you. I am very vocal, energetic, flexible and most of all motivated which I believe will be an asset to the council. I will represent the students and parents in the best way possible and I will be proactive in looking for solutions and resolutions to the different areas of concern that arise. Serving on this council is important to me because I see an opportunity for growth and change for our communities, children, and schools which in turn lead to successful and healthy children in the future.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Melissa Rosado-Taveras	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X175	YES	NO	Serving on a Community Education Council is important to me for many reasons. For me, education is of the utmost importance in our family and there is nothing more I would like to do than to help in anyway possible to better the schools, curriculum, and policies. I believe in growth and achievement for all children regardless of race, gender, and economic status, not only academically but socially, emotionally and artistically. I am a mom of two daughters, one who is special needs and has been on an IEP since she was 2 years old. I understand the importance of education as well as community and family supports and if being on his committee can help foster those relationships, then I would love to be a part of this council. I am a very active parent not only in my children's' school but also in my community. I am currently serving my third year on the SLT at my daughters' school which I find extremely informative and helpful. I am able to voice my concerns easily as well as the concerns of the parents in my school. I have been an active participant in the PTA of my school and I have assisted in coordinating events and activities pre-pandemic. In addition, I am a coleader to a Girl Scout troop here in the Bronx and this experience has really taught me about community involvement and what it means to stand up for something that is important to you. I am very vocal, energetic, flexible and most of all motivated which I believe will be an asset to the council. I will represent the students and parents in the best way possible and I will be proactive in looking for solutions and resolutions to the different areas of concern that arise. Serving on this council is important to me because I see an opportunity for growth and change for our communities, children, and schools which in turn lead to successful and healthy children in the future.
Olga Rotmistrova	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M217	YES	YES	
Eden Rubenstein	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q193	NO	NO	
Eden Rubenstein	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q193	YES	NO	
Shakira Ruis-Thomas	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q132	YES	NO	As a mother of a 9-year-old little girl diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, I understand the importance more than most of being an advocate for my child. My experience has taught me that the relationships I had with educators was crucial in my child's growth. I didn't always know what my rights as a parent were but through working through my daughter's disability, I started to learn what services were available to me and my daughter. I believe, I'd be able to help parents better navigate through challenges such as mine to help their children be successful in school.



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Tracy Russell	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	13K113	YES	NO	I am a parent of my child at M.S 113, she is on the 6th grade and I will like to help out in your school
Oluwaseun Salako	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K217	NO	NO	The most important quality a representative can have, in my opinion, is Trustworthiness. Parents should be able to trust that the decisions made on their behalf regarding the well-being of their children is, without a shadow of a doubt, in the best interest of their children. I am Trustworthy. Even when we disagree on few occasions, you can be rest assured that the well-being of your children, and mine, is my North star. I am a young parent. Dad of three lovely girls (four if you include my wife); one in the 3rd grade, one in pre-k and one still trying to say her first word. I am an Assistant Professor at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. I work with 10th and 11th graders in the summer in a program called College Now. Before becoming an Assistant Professor, I was a Tutor for almost 10 years. I worked with students from 3rd grade to preparing high school students for their SAT and ACT exams. My experience with these broad spectrum of students makes me an excellent candidate to represent our community on behalf of our children.
Oluwaseun Salako	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K217	YES	NO	The most important quality a representative can have, in my opinion, is Trustworthiness. Parents should be able to trust that the decisions made on their behalf regarding the well-being of their children is, without a shadow of a doubt, in the best interest of their children. I am Trustworthy. Even when we disagree on few occasions, you can be rest assured that the well-being of your children, and mine, is my North star. I am a young parent. Dad of three lovely girls (four if you include my wife); one in the 3rd grade, one in pre-k and one still trying to say her first word. I am an Assistant Professor at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. I work with 10th and 11th graders in the summer in a program called College Now. Before becoming an Assistant Professor, I was a Tutor for almost 10 years. I worked with students from 3rd grade to preparing high school students for their SAT and ACT exams. My experience with these broad spectrum of students makes me an excellent candidate to represent our community on behalf of our children.
William Iii Salazar	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q116	NO	NO	I feel like someone of my background can offer a unique perspective on the council. I feel that I can make a positive impact and help my community.
William Iii Salazar	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q116	YES	NO	I feel like someone of my background can offer a unique perspective on the council. I feel that I can make a positive impact and help my community.
Lisa Salmon	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	27Q323	YES	NO	I have written a statement, however it is not saving in this application. Is it possible to email it to you. Thank you.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Rose Salvodon	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q109	YES	NO	
Nfn Samaira	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q154	NO	NO	
Nfn Samaira	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q154	YES	NO	
Nfn Samaira	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	25Q164	NO	NO	
Susan Samuel	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K546	YES	NO	<p>I am a mother with a son with an IEP, daughter, sister, auntie, friend, and advocate who puts children's well-being first. A true leader in delivering childcare solutions provides innovative, flexible solutions that allow parents to customize their children's care schedules for their children... It took sixteen years of schooling, training, and experience to realize my community service dream with her non-profit organization. It Takes A Community To Raise A Child 24 Hours Child Care (ITAC), which has been a beacon in South Ozone Park Queens, New York, for over ten years. ITAC had partnered with other "bridge" organizations that provide resources and services to improve the community's quality of life. Pairing with Welfare to Work, ITAC allowed program participants to obtain work experience at the learning center. ITAC also collaborated with the Easter Seal organization by providing training and internship for the elderly population. As our youth is the future, Ms. Samuel enjoyed training young adults interested in careers in early childhood education and owning businesses in that pursuit. ITAC also teamed up with various youth groups and summer youth employment providers to allow committed young people hands-on experience working with infants-to-school-aged children. A prime example of a successful, contemporary woman with style all her own, in 1989, Ms. Samuel began her professional climb toward her vision of developing and opening her educational program. Starting in the NYC Department Of Education as a para-professional, then a public school teacher. Susan directed a daycare center before accepting the position as an Assistant Principal for a school in the NYC Department of Education. Her credentials also include being Permanent certification as a New York State School Administrator and Supervisor; Department of Health Permanent Certification of Early Intervention, New York State Permanent License in Special Education, New York State Permanent License in Common Branches (Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6), completed 125 Hours Alcoholism Certification, New York State Certified Health and Safety Trainer, and a Workshop and Business Opportunity graduate (WIBO). Ms. Samuel has a Bachelors's degree in Psychology from York College and a Master's of Science in Special Education, and a Post-Graduate Degree in School Administration and Supervision from Queens College. She is an Educational Therapist/Evaluator for Susan Samuel Consulting Inc. in South Ozone Park, New York, that provides educational training and technical assistance to individuals interested in starting childcare centers, license renewal, and academic support. There is also a Senate Resolution "I1782" created in Ms. Samuel's honor for the work that she has done and</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Stephanie Sandeus	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K375	NO	NO	Serving on the Education Council is important to me because I am a parent with children that attend schools in several DOE districts. It's essentially for me to be part of a process to ensure all students have the required tools to be successful in their educational careers. It is my civic duty as a parent and community member to prepare our children with the appropriate knowledge. One way to do so is to be able to implement education policies that adheres to the need of every child ( no matter the district) and that is the reason I would like to serve on the Education Council. I have had the opportunity to be affiliated with several boards and participate in workshops and different events. I am currently PA President in District 75 as well as a SLT member. I am also PTA Vice President and SLT Co Chair in District 17.
Stephanie Sandeus	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K141	YES	NO	Serving on the Education Council is important to me because I am a parent with children that attend schools in several DOE districts. It's essentially for me to be part of a process to ensure all students have the required tools to be successful in their educational careers. It is my civic duty as a parent and community member to prepare our children with the appropriate knowledge. One way to do so is to be able to implement education policies that adheres to the need of every child ( no matter the district) and that is the reason I would like to serve on the Education Council. I have had the opportunity to be affiliated with several boards and participate in workshops and different events. I am currently PA President in District 75 as well as a SLT member. I am also PTA Vice President and SLT Co Chair in District 17.
Carmen Santiago	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X168	YES	NO	Greetings! My name is Carmen Santiago and I am the mother to a 12-year-old son that attends a D75 school in the Bronx. I don't have experience or have held office as a PA/PTA member. What I do have is the experience of a mother that cares and will continue to care for a son that lives with Autism. From this experience, I have learned to fight, embrace, respect, and grow with my son as I hope to the same as a member of the Education Council. My passion is my son's future and above that is his education. I see how he has grown and flourished due to the services, support and commitment the providers in D75 have provided him in his short time with them. I would like to take this opportunity to pay it forward by offering my time and assistance by further propelling all I have received into the future of D75 families.
Krystal Santiago	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X009	NO	NO	
Krystal Santiago	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X186	YES	NO	
Priscilla Santos	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K239	YES	NO	I have served for 2 years as a CEC 21 IEP liason and was elected 2nd VP for the council. I would like to continue being part of such an important and crucial group.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Roxanne Schmidt	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R055	NO	NO	My name is Roxanne Schmidt, I am a single mom of twin 9 year old's currently in 4th grade at PS 55. My daughter has had an IEP since she was 3 years old and has worked with OT, PT, Speech and Guidance therapists throughout her school career. My son had a very difficult second grade with a teacher that did not understand him and was bullied by other students. I have been through the school system for equal and effective treatment and education for both my kids. I would love the opportunity to be that advocate for your kids as well.
Roxanne Schmidt	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R055	YES	NO	My name is Roxanne Schmidt, I am a single mom of twin 9 year old's currently in 4th grade at PS 55. My daughter has had an IEP since she was 3 years old and has worked with OT, PT, Speech and Guidance therapists throughout her school career. My son had a very difficult second grade with a teacher that did not understand him and was bullied by other students. I have been through the school system for equal and effective treatment and education for both my kids. I would love the opportunity to be that advocate for your kids as well.
Leah Scott	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K410	YES	NO	Good Day I am a parent of a 10th grade student who has had an IEP since pre-K. At the time of submitting my candidate statement I am a Co-Chair PTA President at ALHS. I've also held an SLT position at my child's Middle School (Mark Twain) and current HS (Abraham Lincoln). I am also heavily involved at local and District levels of BSA Scouting. My voice is not for just my child, but all children who have issues/interest/concerns with IEP and/or in HS. When I speak, I speak for all.
Sabrina Scott	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X188	YES	NO	Hello I'm Sabrina Scott resident in the Bronx with a grandchild whom is in my custody attending a district 75 school. I current hold the position of PA secretary I have participated in PA previously and held position of treasurer. I want to be apart of the council to ensure the children are getting the most out of their education. I believe the schools are not focus on preparing our children to be intelligent productive members of society. I want to advocate for curriculum that prepares students to be product post graduation. Capable to attend college if they choose to or not. I also want to be a voice for parents who want the best education for their kids however find the process confusing and or intimidating.
Michelle Serling	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M615	YES	NO	I have been advocating for my child and other children for several years regarding their education. As an education council, I hope I can bring ideas that can help improve the scholastic process. In March 2021 I will be receiving my Master's degree in Public Administration in addition I am a civil servant with the city of New York so I am aware of how policies are formed. I hope If chosen I can make a difference in the future of our young people's lives to build a better tomorrow.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Angela Shtutman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K197	YES	NO	I would love to have this opportunity to be an education council. Helping students is what I like to do.
Angela Shtutman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K197	YES	YES	I would love to have this opportunity to be an education council. Helping students is what I like to do.
Afsana Sidat	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q012	YES	YES	
Robert Simms	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X078	YES	NO	
Satara Singleton	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M422	YES	NO	
Michelle Sinigallia	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M138	YES	NO	My 10 year old severely autistic son has been receiving a public school education since he began attending school 7 years ago. We have been very fortunate to have always had wonderful, caring and supportive educators and staff. However, he even under these ideal circumstances I have always had to advocate for my son's specific issues. I am happy to do so and in the process work closely with the teachers, staff and administrators of his school. I have enormous respect for the work they do and want help and support as I can. This year I have also become a volunteer Autism Ambassador for Autism Speaks. I will be working on a Federal level to bring autism awareness to the legislature. I would also like to work on a community level to support, engage and advocate for my fellow D75 families. It would be an honor to work with D75 on a community level.
Shatiqua Smiley	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X127	YES	NO	
Shatiqua Smiley	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X567	YES	NO	
Jamarr Smith	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M094	YES	NO	
Joshua Smith	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q052	YES	NO	I believe during these enduring times that family of all should join a council
Karen Smith	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	17K354	YES	NO	
Nefertiti Smith	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X439	YES	NO	My name is Nefertiti Smith and I would relish in the idea to run for a seat within the education council. I am currently employed as a School Counselor in a charter school In the Bronx but it is my first job as a mother which is why I would like to run. My daughter is currently 6 years of age and attends a high school in the Bronx. We need changes made to our educational system nationwide but why not start in NYC. Right now there are a vast amount of parents who still do not understand special education services. We are experiencing a global crisis in which we have no clue as to what the lasting implications will be. It is more crucial now than ever before how dire it is to have parent voice.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Nicole Smith	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X545	YES	NO	I am a mom of 6 and I have 2 in high school & 2 in junior high school. I try to be as much involved as possible. That is why I want to run I have learned a lot this past year of home schooling and it does take a village to raise the children. My granddaughter is apart of our future she is the next generation. I will only get more advanced from here.
Nicole Smith	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X566	YES	NO	I am a mom of 6 and I have 2 in high school & 2 in junior high school. I try to be as much involved as possible. That is why I want to run I have learned a lot this past year of home schooling and it does take a village to raise the children. My granddaughter is apart of our future she is the next generation. I will only get more advanced from here.
Nicole Smith	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75K371	YES	NO	I am a mom of 6 and I have 2 in high school & 2 in junior high school. I try to be as much involved as possible. That is why I want to run I have learned a lot this past year of home schooling and it does take a village to raise the children. My granddaughter is apart of our future she is the next generation. I will only get more advanced from here.
Susan Sonstein	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M290	NO	NO	I would like to serve on the Education Council to be a voice for the parents in the Public School system. During these past months , many of us feel powerless over how things have been going for our kids ! I have 4 children , 2 of which are currently enrolled in public schools ( 4 th and 11 th grade). I know the curriculum well . I have volunteered for PTA service and Parent Rep service in the past few years . I would like to participate in our city providing quality of education for our children that is equitable to all in this city . We all need a voice in our children's curriculum . I also strongly feel our kids should be back at in person school just like the private and suburban schools are . That is truly equitable .
Susan Sonstein	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M416	YES	NO	I would like to serve on the Education Council to be a voice for the parents in the Public School system. During these past months , many of us feel powerless over how things have been going for our kids ! I have 4 children , 2 of which are currently enrolled in public schools ( 4 th and 11 th grade). I know the curriculum well . I have volunteered for PTA service and Parent Rep service in the past few years . I would like to participate in our city providing quality of education for our children that is equitable to all in this city . We all need a voice in our children's curriculum . I also strongly feel our kids should be back at in person school just like the private and suburban schools are . That is truly equitable .
Ernest Spellman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M163	YES	NO	
Ernest Spellman	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	05M148	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Erika Steward	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	07X018	YES	NO	My name is Erica Steward, I'm a single mother of an 11 year old pre-teen. Jordan, my daughter was born in September 2009 with severe prematurity medical and physical delays. While in the hospital for 5 months Jordan has had over six surgeries prior to being released. Since birth, Jordan has received Occupational, physical and speech therapies to maintain academic and curriculum milestones as well personal and growth milestones. However, the process in her education has been daunting to say the least. I have had at least two schools attempt to leave her back following her initial retention in kindergarten. One of the biggest mistakes I've made in her education journey from lack of knowledge, assistance and or resources. This year, 2021 was literally the first time I managed to get her a proper psych evaluation to appropriately label her condition or developmental delays. Im applying for Council election to not only shed a light on the lack of resources or assistance but to also change it and eventually make it available or everyday knowledge for parents experiencing the same.
Roochele Stokes	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M533	YES	NO	Good Day, My name is Roochele Myers and I have the pleasure of being the mom of two amazing young men. Both of which have IEPs and benefit greatly through the DOE's many services. I have advocated for my eldest son whom started out in Early Intervention and small class settings being told that he would stay on most likely stay on that path throughout school years. I am proud to say that with lots of faith and hard work that he is completely in Integrated Co-Teaching settings in all subjects of a wonderful High School. I am currently serving as the PTA treasurer for his school this year. Now he has dreams of college on the horizon. I would love to be able to reach out to other parents and give them the information and encouragement to navigate the special education system with their child's school as a partner. My youngest is currently a third grader and I am proudly on the journey with him to ensure his success. The possibilities are endless where a child can go when the community of the child works together. I want that for every child. Thank You
Johanna Suarez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q143	YES	YES	



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Freshta Taeb	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R058	NO	NO	<p>My name is Freshta Taeb. I have two daughters in the public school system. When my eldest daughter was at the end of 2nd grade it was brought to my attention that she needed to be evaluated. The assessment team at her elementary school assisted in that process. She is now in junior high and has an IEP for the past few years, it is important for me to serve on an education council to better bridge the gap between the policymakers and parents. As a former elementary and Highschool teacher I feel my presence on these councils would provide both the parental and educator perspective. Currently, I am the senior refugee family and marriage interventionist at Cornerstone Family and Marriage intervention. I currently lead the Refugee Interventionists Program at Cornerstone Family and Marriage Intervention. I also spearhead intervention sessions that incorporate, but are not limited to, clients with PTSD, anger management, and domestic violence. Additionally, I oversee a team that implements emotional wellness workshops for refugee teens and adults, before becoming an interventionist, I advocated for individuals and families through my position as a director for an agency providing culturally sensitive services to the underserved marginalized Middle Eastern and South Asian population. As a subject matter expert, I have advised and lectured on various topics relating to domestic violence, refugee rights, and holistic health. currentI am also a Board Member of the Afghan American Foundation a non-profit, non-partisan institution representing and advancing the interests of Afghan-Americans. The foundation focuses on civic, cultural, economic, and policy issues amongst the American public, policymakers and opinion shapers. I was also a member of the Afghan Americans for Biden steering committee, a volunteer group dedicated to Afghan-Americans supporting the Biden/Harris campaign and in mobilizing our communities to bring about change in the November 2020 elections. I also regularly volunteer my time to reputable organizations within my community. They include but are not limited to the NOVA Coalition for Refugee Wellness and NJ Refugee Wellness Coalition. Lastly, I provide cultural competence trainings to resettlement agencies. I believe these experiences would add value to the council. Thank you for considering my application.</p>



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Freshta Taeb	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R063	YES	NO	My name is Freshta Taeb. I have two daughters in the public school system. When my eldest daughter was at the end of 2nd grade it was brought to my attention that she needed to be evaluated. The assessment team at her elementary school assisted in that process. She is now in junior high and has an IEP for the past few years, it is important for me to serve on an education council to better bridge the gap between the policymakers and parents. As a former elementary and Highschool teacher I feel my presence on these councils would provide both the parental and educator perspective. Currently, I am the senior refugee family and marriage interventionist at Cornerstone Family and Marriage intervention. I currently lead the Refugee Interventionists Program at Cornerstone Family and Marriage Intervention. I also spearhead intervention sessions that incorporate, but are not limited to, clients with PTSD, anger management, and domestic violence. Additionally, I oversee a team that implements emotional wellness workshops for refugee teens and adults, before becoming an interventionist, I advocated for individuals and families through my position as a director for an agency providing culturally sensitive services to the underserved marginalized Middle Eastern and South Asian population. As a subject matter expert, I have advised and lectured on various topics relating to domestic violence, refugee rights, and holistic health. currentI am also a Board Member of the Afghan American Foundation a non-profit, non-partisan institution representing and advancing the interests of Afghan-Americans. The foundation focuses on civic, cultural, economic, and policy issues amongst the American public, policymakers and opinion shapers. I was also a member of the Afghan Americans for Biden steering committee, a volunteer group dedicated to Afghan-Americans supporting the Biden/Harris campaign and in mobilizing our communities to bring about change in the November 2020 elections. I also regularly volunteer my time to reputable organizations within my community. They include but are not limited to the NOVA Coalition for Refugee Wellness and NJ Refugee Wellness Coalition. Lastly, I provide cultural competence trainings to resettlement agencies. I believe these experiences would add value to the council. Thank you for considering my application.
Maria Tang-Brooks	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	21K228	YES	NO	
Pamela Tarantul	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K195	YES	NO	I am a mother of a son with special needs in a district 22 school. Currently in 5th grade. Have 2 more boys that will enter the education system in just a few years. I've experienced a lot in the education system dating back to when I attended and the rest of my family. I would be a great asset in helping better the lives of our children and their education.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Larae Tate	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R044	YES	NO	
Shapari Taxell	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M019	NO	NO	<p>I am a mother of a seven-year-old daughter and nine-year-old son who attend public schools in Manhattan and Queens, respectively. We left our home in East Africa in 2019 primarily because we felt our son, who is on the autism spectrum, would have access to better services here. Indeed, I am grateful for the support my son has received, particularly through the Nest program. At the same time, many aspects of the school system have room for improvement. As the largest school district in the nation, New York City schools impact so many children at a scale that is not matched elsewhere in the country. Unfortunately, it remains one of the most segregated as well, leaving some of our most vulnerable perpetually disadvantaged. This last year has been immensely difficult for all of us with the pandemic devastating our families and racial injustice brought to light. But it has exacerbated the situation for these communities who have suffered trauma at a far larger scale. I care deeply about equity and social justice and will support policies that provide all of our children with a well-rounded education, not solely focused on academic performance but fostering an environment of compassion and understanding that provides all children with opportunities to thrive. I will work with families, teachers and community members to support them in providing the tools they need for our children to succeed. In terms of my involvement, since moving to New York, I have been engaged in the NYC school system. In my first year, I was an active member in the PTA and served as the parent representative of my daughter's class. This year I am serving as the PTA president at her school and by extension am a member of the Senior Leadership Team and Presidents' Council. I regularly attend the CEC meetings as a member of the public in order to follow developments and the main issues. As way of background, I have a bachelor's in psychology and master's in international affairs. I've lived in several countries and through my children have been exposed to the school systems in Norway and Uganda. In Norway in particular, I was able to see a school system that focused heavily on the overall well-being of the child. Prior to that, I've lived and worked in Albania, Afghanistan and Bulgaria working for the private sector, public sector, non-profits and the UN.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Shapari Taxell	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q076	YES	NO	<p>I am a mother of a seven-year-old daughter and nine-year-old son who attend public schools in Manhattan and Queens, respectively. We left our home in East Africa in 2019 primarily because we felt our son, who is on the autism spectrum, would have access to better services here. Indeed, I am grateful for the support my son has received, particularly through the Nest program. At the same time, many aspects of the school system have room for improvement. As the largest school district in the nation, New York City schools impact so many children at a scale that is not matched elsewhere in the country. Unfortunately, it remains one of the most segregated as well, leaving some of our most vulnerable perpetually disadvantaged. This last year has been immensely difficult for all of us with the pandemic devastating our families and racial injustice brought to light. But it has exacerbated the situation for these communities who have suffered trauma at a far larger scale. I care deeply about equity and social justice and will support policies that provide all of our children with a well-rounded education, not solely focused on academic performance but fostering an environment of compassion and understanding that provides all children with opportunities to thrive. I will work with families, teachers and community members to support them in providing the tools they need for our children to succeed. In terms of my involvement, since moving to New York, I have been engaged in the NYC school system. In my first year, I was an active member in the PTA and served as the parent representative of my daughter's class. This year I am serving as the PTA president at her school and by extension am a member of the Senior Leadership Team and Presidents' Council. I regularly attend the CEC meetings as a member of the public in order to follow developments and the main issues. As way of background, I have a bachelor's in psychology and master's in international affairs. I've lived in several countries and through my children have been exposed to the school systems in Norway and Uganda. In Norway in particular, I was able to see a school system that focused heavily on the overall well-being of the child. Prior to that, I've lived and worked in Albania, Afghanistan and Bulgaria working for the private sector, public sector, non-profits and the UN.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Camelia Tepelus	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X024	NO	NO	<p>It Takes a Village! As an immigrant, a single parent, a working mom with a demanding job, a community Board member, but most of all as a mother that feels strongly that all children deserve a high quality education, I, CAMELIA TEPELUS, submit for your consideration my application for the 2021 Education Council Election. I am the mother of a kindergarten son with an IEP receiving special education services, and a very poised 4th grader daughter, both in a public school in the Bronx. As many families experienced, over the last year we went through many challenges trying to ensure that the education of my children continues, in COVID conditions, both remotely and in person. I advocated with my children's school and, with the support of the administration, we succeeded to obtain 5 days in person education for my son in kindergarten, and securing continuation of his special services. I have been through the experience of applying for the Learning Bridges program, as well as for the DOE ASD NEST program. I am currently undergoing training with INCLUDEnyc to become a "Parent Member" of the IEP team, to be able to assist parents through stressful IEP meetings and understanding the processes around special education. I am also a very active member in my local community in Spuyten Duyvil in North West Bronx, and have been a member of the Bronx Community Board 8 since 2019. Professionally, I am the Executive Director of a business improvement district in central Bronx, and in this capacity I interact on a daily basis with people from all walks of life, different cultures and ethnicities. I also advocate frequently with elected officials and staff of NYC agencies, ensuring that concerns brought to my attention are being addressed appropriately by the people with the capacity to create change and improvements. For my work in the community I was honored to receive in 2020 the NY State "Women of Distinction" distinction from D34 Senator Alessandra Biaggi, and the 2020 Schneps Media "Power Women of the Bronx" distinction. Finally, I want to state that I am a believer in the power of team-work, and, when it comes to our children's education "it takes a village!" It is the parent, the family at home and extended family, the teacher and school administration team, along with DOE officials at district, borough and City level, that all together have to coordinate and create a system of education that helps ALL our children. I thank you in advance for the consideration and for your work to continue improving the NYC education system for all children. Dr. Camelia Tepelus, 2/26/2021</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Camelia Tepelus	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X024	YES	NO	<p>It Takes a Village! As an immigrant, a single parent, a working mom with a demanding job, a community Board member, but most of all as a mother that feels strongly that all children deserve a high quality education, I, CAMELIA TEPELUS, submit for your consideration my application for the 2021 Education Council Election. I am the mother of a kindergarten son with an IEP receiving special education services, and a very poised 4th grader daughter, both in a public school in the Bronx. As many families experienced, over the last year we went through many challenges trying to ensure that the education of my children continues, in COVID conditions, both remotely and in person. I advocated with my children's school and, with the support of the administration, we succeeded to obtain 5 days in person education for my son in kindergarten, and securing continuation of his special services. I have been through the experience of applying for the Learning Bridges program, as well as for the DOE ASD NEST program. I am currently undergoing training with INCLUDEnyc to become a "Parent Member" of the IEP team, to be able to assist parents through stressful IEP meetings and understanding the processes around special education. I am also a very active member in my local community in Spuyten Duyvil in North West Bronx, and have been a member of the Bronx Community Board 8 since 2019. Professionally, I am the Executive Director of a business improvement district in central Bronx, and in this capacity I interact on a daily basis with people from all walks of life, different cultures and ethnicities. I also advocate frequently with elected officials and staff of NYC agencies, ensuring that concerns brought to my attention are being addressed appropriately by the people with the capacity to create change and improvements. For my work in the community I was honored to receive in 2020 the NY State "Women of Distinction" distinction from D34 Senator Alessandra Biaggi, and the 2020 Schneps Media "Power Women of the Bronx" distinction. Finally, I want to state that I am a believer in the power of team-work, and, when it comes to our children's education "it takes a village!" It is the parent, the family at home and extended family, the teacher and school administration team, along with DOE officials at district, borough and City level, that all together have to coordinate and create a system of education that helps ALL our children. I thank you in advance for the consideration and for your work to continue improving the NYC education system for all children. Dr. Camelia Tepelus, 2/26/2021</p>

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Nuris Terrero	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M298	YES	NO	As an experienced bi-lingual and bi-cultural Master's level Social Worker who has an extensive history working with children and families in urban communities, I understand the importance of education being an empowerment tool towards advancement. Also as a mother of a special needs child, I personally understand the struggle in ensuring that the needs of the student are met at all times in the most professional and that services given are culturally sensitive. In my my professional and personal experience I am aware of the limitations in providing these supports but it is in my professional experience that throughout the educational development of the student all ecological perspectives are examined in an effort to ensure the student is not being discriminated and receiving their legal right to a free public education and appropriate services.
Melody Thomas	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	20K062	YES	NO	My name is Melody Thomas and I am an advocate for children. I have worked in education for the past 8 years and have 2 children who have attended NYC public schools for the past 9 years; they are in 8th and 7th grade respectively. I worked as a Program Director at a tutoring center for 4 years and I am currently a Senior Operations Associate at a Brooklyn charter school. Ensuring all children receive a quality education is my passion, especially as the mother of a special needs child. It is my goal to work with my community, teachers, administrators, families, and students to improve student achievement, equity, and access to education.
Melody Thomas	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K078	NO	NO	My name is Melody Thomas and I am an advocate for children. I have worked in education for the past 8 years and have 2 children who have attended NYC public schools for the past 9 years; they are in 8th and 7th grade respectively. I worked as a Program Director at a tutoring center for 4 years and I am currently a Senior Operations Associate at a Brooklyn charter school. Ensuring all children receive a quality education is my passion, especially as the mother of a special needs child. It is my goal to work with my community, teachers, administrators, families, and students to improve student achievement, equity, and access to education.
Brittanylee Tomlinson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X112	YES	NO	
Brittanylee Tomlinson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	11X529	NO	NO	
Delores Toro	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M245	YES	NO	
Sherlie Toussaint	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K078	YES	NO	I have been working with IDD level in the adult settings for many years and I would like to have a better approach on the ground up. I will have a voice of what setting would benefit an individual upon reaching age out. My experience and details oriented would make me a better candidate to carry out this role.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Sherlie Toussaint	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K078	YES	NO	I have been working with IDD level in the adult settings for many years and I would like to have a better approach on the ground up. I will have a voice of what setting would benefit an individual upon reaching age out. My experience and details oriented would make me a better candidate to carry out this role.
Erin Ulitto	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R001	YES	NO	My name is Erin Ulitto and I am a stay-at-home mom. My full-time job has been taking care of my 2 children over the last 7 years. I Currently have a daughter in PreK4 and my son is in the 1st grade in District 31. My son has been in a specialized program since he was 3 years old. While he was in preschool I served as a member of the schools Parent Council. The second year he was there (2018) I was the co-leader of the council and organized many school based fundraisers, parents night out gatherings and play dates for the children . The year ended with a 200 person + dinner dance. At the dinner dance there was over 150 baskets made and put together by myself and several of the other parents that were raffled off. The money raised from this event went towards much needed equipment for the school, therapy programs and other various actives for the children to enjoy. Serving on this council is important to me because I would like to have a bigger part in the decisions that go on in the public schools, especially for those in the special needs community. The children in the special needs classes and schools need more assistance now than ever. I think I would be a great asset to the council and thank you for your consideration.
Erin Ushakov	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M063	YES	NO	Special education had played a pivotal role in my life. As a child, I was labelled "unable to learn" and referred for special education services. My mom was denied testing for me and forced to place me in private school. Thank goodness times have changed. I have taught in special education settings for a decade. I have 8 year old twins with ASD and ASD and ADHD who are included in ICT and thriving. I also have a toddler with severe autism. I understand special needs students and families needs as both an educator and a parent.
Thomas Valentin	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q305	YES	NO	I have part of my children's council in the past I would like to serve and possibly expand my knowledge and or ideas to better assist our community and children I have been part of our childres education for 22 years and 17 years of the Bushwick / Ridgewood area I have had children in special education and have been affected and blessed with good and bad experiences as a bilingual woman and mother I would like to better serve those who are in need .
Raisa Valerio	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X020	YES	NO	



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Kemba Vance	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	22K278	YES	NO	Good Evening, I would consider it an honor to serve on the Education Council. My son's education is of the utmost importance to me. I'm dedicated to his learning process and spend a lot of time ensuring he can be successful in his studies.
Samara Vasquez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X033	NO	NO	
Samara Vasquez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X033	YES	NO	
Samara Vasquez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X033	YES	NO	
Nina Vaughan	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M075	YES	NO	I am mother four boys. Three of children attended public schools and I just want to see all children excel and succeed. Especially children with IEP and district 75 children. They have a lot of obstacles to get over. Being a mother with two children that was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder I know first hand. One of my children have a mild diagnosis and the other is non verbal, so I know the challenges that they face first hand. I just want what's best for them and other children as well.
Nina Vaughan	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75M226	YES	NO	I am mother four boys. Three of children attended public schools and I just want to see all children excel and succeed. Especially children with IEP and district 75 children. They have a lot of obstacles to get over. Being a mother with two children that was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder I know first hand. One of my children have a mild diagnosis and the other is non verbal, so I know the challenges that they face first hand. I just want what's best for them and other children as well.
Stephanie Vazquez-Rivera	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X215	YES	NO	My Name is Stephanie Vazquez-Rivera I have 2 daughters that attend Kappa. I have been the PA President in they pass school and last year in Kappa. I am apart of the SLT team this year and the Title 1 Rep as well. I love being and taking part of children education having a voice on how to be able to help public school better. I am completely passionate about ensuring that all children get the best possible start in life. Being able to be part of the team we will need to make some tough decisions regarding continuing to improve our educational deliverables in a fiscally sustainable manner. I humbly ask for your support to be part of this District leadership team. Thank You for your time Have a safe and Blessing day
Lisa Vega	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84R070	YES	NO	My son has has been receiving special education services since he was 3 years old. I have seen the system and services changed over the years. I would like to help make a difference and part of the change.



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Daria Velez	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	10X118	YES	NO	To whom it may concern, I would like to be a candidate for the council because I believe that I represent my borough. I am a single, Latina, hardworking mother to a 13 year old kid. I know I can work diligently when it comes to the future for our children. Being involved and engaged is the primary and only way to set the tone in efforts of achieving success. I will like to be the the voice and advocate for my son and for many others like him.
Kemberly Villamil	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q212	YES	YES	
Azalia Volpe	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	84R076	YES	NO	I am currently serving as a First Vice-President for CCSE; I am responsible for the Annual Report and currently writing the report. Furthermore, I have participated in all meetings and have facilitated a meeting between the CCSE and T&I Unit regarding the OCR agreement that the DOE signed with OCR in January 2020. Currently I have several FOIA requests to the DOE regarding the DOE's expenditures regarding the IPADS as well as THRIVE NYC's budgetary contribution to the NYC DOE. I am eagerly awaiting the requests as these are pertinent information that should be included in the annual report. I would like an opportunity to finish what I started. I strongly believe that the children of NYC deserve a strong voice and that is what I am . I am a mother to two neuro-diverse children, one with ADHD, and ASD and the other child has ADHD, and learning disabilities including but not limited to Dyslexia and Dysgraphia. Lastly, I fight for all of the children in NYC who deserve a Fair and Appropriate Education.
Nicole Wallace	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X454	YES	NO	I have a child that receive special education services and continue to advocate for her needs. I enjoy helping others and making sure they have the necessary assistance to succeed. I also like to spread information to others that can be used for their benefit.
Lizabeth Webster	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	27Q317	YES	NO	Hello, I would like to share a little about myself. I am a mother of 5 daughters ages 2-16 therefore providing me alot of experience in the school system. Currently, I am an Infant/toddler teacher working with 2-3 year olds. Throughout years I have worked closely with children with I.E.P's. My eight year old daughter also recieves services I Speech and Occupational Therapy. I would love an opportunity to hold a place on the Educational Council.

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Michelle Webster	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R039	YES	NO	To Whom it May Concern, I decided to run for the Education Council after seeing how my daughter Melody is struggling. She is completely remote learning due to health issues and she recently fell behind because she had two brain surgeries in January due to Hydrocephalus. I've noticed that during meets that the curriculum is sped through and never gone over again. There is no review or time to ask questions when kids need help. Every day is a new topic that is sped through. I am running because I would like to see more help for the children who are struggling and be more involved with the education of children like my daughter. Stay safe and well, Michelle Webster
Dicoda Westbrook	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75Q009	YES	NO	I am the mother of a vivacious 7 year old boy on the spectrum, his needs are my focus and my goal is to ensure that they are met. I am the younger sister to a woman now in her 40s who resides in a home upstate (also on the spectrum but very low functioning). I am currently a social worker on a psychiatric unit in the south Bronx. Mental health is my passion. Ensuring that the humans of this city (from infancy to geriatric) are mentally healthy is not a new calling but I find that due to current events my desire for this city to thrive has been reawakened. Its important for our children to be educated, it's important to their sense of self, worth and to their autonomy. My 7 year old boy is a miracle to me, your littles (always a little whether they're 3 months or 33 years) are your miracles and its important to me that our educational tribe band together to protect these miracles. To forward agendas that support their educational excellence and their social growth. I have absolutely no experience on an educational council. I wish to gain some experience, to be useful to my kiddo and yours.
Edyta Wilczynski	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q128	NO	NO	Serving on Educational Council is important to me because as a parent I want to be involved in my children education and have many voices of other parents heard. I believe that educational policies should be adjusted to meet the needs of our kids. There should be a better communication between parents and schools and parents should be clearly educated about their rights. Knowing the rules and providing help to parents who are advocating for their children should be a priority. Every parent should be encouraged to voice their concerns and opinions. We should help kids to get best education in best, supportive environment, meeting every child's need. As a parent I communicate with other parents and I find one pattern, even though they have a lot of questions and concerns they don't stand up for their children. Their belief is simply that they can't do or change anything! Giving parents the tools how to navigate the system or where to go to get help should be easily accessible. Lastly every parent should be encouraged to get involved in education of their kids

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Edyta Wilczynski	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	24Q128	YES	NO	Serving on Educational Council is important to me because as a parent I want to be involved in my children education and have many voices of other parents heard. I believe that educational policies should be adjusted to meet the needs of our kids. There should be a better communication between parents and schools and parents should be clearly educated about their rights. Knowing the rules and providing help to parents who are advocating for their children should be a priority. Every parent should be encouraged to voice their concerns and opinions. We should help kids to get best education in best, supportive environment, meeting every child's need. As a parent I communicate with other parents and I find one pattern, even though they have a lot of questions and concerns they don't stand up for their children. Their belief is simply that they can't do or change anything! Giving parents the tools how to navigate the system or where to go to get help should be easily accessible. Lastly every parent should be encouraged to get involved in education of their kids
Cassi Wilkins	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M155	YES	NO	My name is Cassi Wilkins I have two children in east Harlem district 4 community schools. I believe I would make a great candidate for either council because I have a child in general education and special education. Unfortunately due to a severely chronically absent teacher in my youngest son's first grade year he missed out on the foundations of learning. I noticed he wasn't reaching significant milestones in school that his brother had reached. I know all children are different and learn different but there are certain things they should be familiar with by the third grade and my son wasn't . I had him evaluated and now he has an IEP he receives SETS and occupational therapy. Fortunately for me I knew enough to notice the signs and use the resources provided. Other parents aren't as knowledgeable of theses resources and their children fall through the cracks.
Cassi Wilkins	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	04M377	NO	NO	My name is Cassi Wilkins I have two children in east Harlem district 4 community schools. I believe I would make a great candidate for either council because I have a child in general education and special education. Unfortunately due to a severely chronically absent teacher in my youngest son's first grade year he missed out on the foundations of learning. I noticed he wasn't reaching significant milestones in school that his brother had reached. I know all children are different and learn different but there are certain things they should be familiar with by the third grade and my son wasn't . I had him evaluated and now he has an IEP he receives SETS and occupational therapy. Fortunately for me I knew enough to notice the signs and use the resources provided. Other parents aren't as knowledgeable of theses resources and their children fall through the cracks.

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Barbara Williams	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q325	NO	NO	My name is Barbara Lewis-Williams , I am a nurse and a single mother of two children my son 14 who as an IEP and my daughter 17 who is currently in the 11th grade I've been the PTA president of Ms358 for the past three years ,I'm also chair of the SLT service for the past three years also, I'm the 1st Vice President of the D28 CEC ,and a member of DLT, I'm also Co-President of D28 President's Council, I'm also chair of various Commitee within the CEC, Quality and Equal Education for all children is my passion, and I just need this opportunity to continue the work that I have started, serving on the Education is very important to me and a very fundamental aspects of my life. P
Barbara Williams	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q358	YES	NO	My name is Barbara Lewis-Williams , I am a nurse and a single mother of two children my son 14 who as an IEP and my daughter 17 who is currently in the 11th grade I've been the PTA president of Ms358 for the past three years ,I'm also chair of the SLT service for the past three years also, I'm the 1st Vice President of the D28 CEC ,and a member of DLT, I'm also Co-President of D28 President's Council, I'm also chair of various Commitee within the CEC, Quality and Equal Education for all children is my passion, and I just need this opportunity to continue the work that I have started, serving on the Education is very important to me and a very fundamental aspects of my life. P
Felicia Williams	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	02M519	YES	NO	The reason that I want to run for Education Council because I enjoy helping and learning new things. Since my son started preschool, I participated in the grievance committee and assisted in handling issues and problems in regards of the school. I participated in various school events. As my son got older I attend monthly SLT meetings and I help the PTA organize events for the school. I attend various IEP workshops and I help parents join the workshops. I received certificate for the workshops. I am currently a PTA Vice-President of my son which is Talent Unlimited High and I am also sit on the SLT board. I am very strong advocate for all students. I am people person I love learning things and helping people. I also help community out in my community I feed the homeless, donate clothes and help out with my church.
Iasia Williams	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	19K224	YES	NO	I'm want to be apart Of cec to help assure our student and parents be informed about what's happening
Robin Williams	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M145	YES	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ronni Williams Word	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q502	YES	NO	Hi my name is Mrs Ronni Williams Word. I have always been active in my son's education. He is in a special education class setting. He is now in HS and has been on the honour roll since 5th grade after I took him out of the district 75 school setting. I dedicated the last 14 years of my life to ensure he has the best education with whatever help he needs from me. Now he is doing great on his on. So I would like to help others achieve greatness on their own or help the parents figure out the best way to help their children. I have a Paralegal Degree and I graduated Summa Cum Laude from college. I have always wanted to be a teacher or someone who fought for the rights of the people. I could be a great asset to any organization of the Education Council.
Latasha Wilson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q186	YES	NO	Good Afternoon, My name is LaTasha Wilson. I'm a mother of two girls that have austim and ADHD. As a parent, I never knew what my journey would entitle,but I have learned that my voice is the most powerful one my girls need to know. They need to know that there disability does not define them. I have learned a lot about the school system and how as a parent there are many way to receive help that many parents may not understand. I would to hold a position to help many parents that may feel lost and alone. I am asking for the parents, grandparents, friends, teacher to llow me that chance to serve our NYC school system. Thank you LaTasha Wilson
Latasha Wilson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	29Q181	YES	NO	Good Afternoon, My name is LaTasha Wilson. I'm a mother of two girls that have austim and ADHD. As a parent, I never knew what my journey would entitle,but I have learned that my voice is the most powerful one my girls need to know. They need to know that there disability does not define them. I have learned a lot about the school system and how as a parent there are many way to receive help that many parents may not understand. I would to hold a position to help many parents that may feel lost and alone. I am asking for the parents, grandparents, friends, teacher to llow me that chance to serve our NYC school system. Thank you LaTasha Wilson
Pamela Woodson	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	75X721	YES	NO	
Brandi Wright	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	27Q043	YES	NO	
Brandi Wright	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	27Q053	YES	NO	
Quasheca Wright	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R078	NO	NO	
Quasheca Wright	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	31R078	YES	NO	
Tammara Wynter	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K010	YES	NO	
Jing Wen Yang	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	30Q111	YES	YES	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Chauntenay Young	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	05M133	YES	NO	<p>As a working parent of two boys, who is also a graduate student, I believe that I represent an underrepresented group. Not only do I work full time, and try my best to manage the schedules of two kids in different schools in different boroughs, but I am also in school myself. One of my children is on the spectrum, and he has to attend school in a totally different borough so that he can receive the proper supports that he needs within the Horizon program. It has been a struggle for me to make sure he has reliable bussing transportation and that he isn't riding on a bus for 2 hours. He is also a very picky eater, so I always have to make sure he has school lunch pack because he will not eat the school lunch. I have to be a lot more involved in his learning and I have to ensure that he has as much structure when it comes to school as possible. I also have a 3 year old in 3-K who is just beginning to learn a wealth of new things, but is still a handful in his own right. It can be difficult as a parent dealing with 2 kids of two different age groups, one with an IEP and one without, one attending school in the Bronx and the other in Manhattan. It is also particularly difficult when you are working and also trying to elevate yourself and education. I want to be a voice for all other mothers like myself. As a public policy graduate student, it is also my passion to have some stake in policies that shape my child's education, future, and opportunities and also for other children who look like them and live in similar unrepresented communities.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Chauntenay Young	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	09X063	NO	NO	<p>As a working parent of two boys, who is also a graduate student, I believe that I represent an underrepresented group. Not only do I work full time, and try my best to manage the schedules of two kids in different schools in different boroughs, but I am also in school myself. One of my children is on the spectrum, and he has to attend school in a totally different borough so that he can receive the proper supports that he needs within the Horizon program. It has been a struggle for me to make sure he has reliable bussing transportation and that he isn't riding on a bus for 2 hours. He is also a very picky eater, so I always have to make sure he has school lunch pack because he will not eat the school lunch. I have to be a lot more involved in his learning and I have to ensure that he has as much structure when it comes to school as possible. I also have a 3 year old in 3-K who is just beginning to learn a wealth of new things, but is still a handful in his own right. It can be difficult as a parent dealing with 2 kids of two different age groups, one with an IEP and one without, one attending school in the Bronx and the other in Manhattan. It is also particularly difficult when you are working and also trying to elevate yourself and education. I want to be a voice for all other mothers like myself. As a public policy graduate student, it is also my passion to have some stake in policies that shape my child's education, future, and opportunities and also for other children who look like them and live in similar unrepresented communities.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ephraim Zakry	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q157	YES	NO	<p>We need many improvements to our current education system, and I intend to help deliver those improvements. Our children suffered a great deal in NYC in the past year, and we have a lot of damage to fix. Top of the agenda is to open all schools safely in September. My name is Effi Zakry, and I would appreciate your vote. I have children who are special ed students with IEPs, and I have children who are in accelerated programs (one daughter is even taking AP classes and CollegeNow courses in 10th grade). Therefore, I am familiar with both the needs of students who struggle and with the desires of gifted students. My children have been to private schools and public schools, and I was very involved in them all. My diverse background and many different experiences give me a rich perspective that I learned along the way. I serve on two School Leadership Teams (SLT): a middle school and a high school. I am of mixed ethnicities, and I am aware of the struggles many of our communities face. I have served as treasurer of the PTA, and in my tenure our bank account increases by 9 times by cutting many unnecessary expenses and negotiating much better deals. I am currently chair of our Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and I served as its treasurer in the past. I am very involved in the meeting and discussions of District 28 Community Education Council (CEC D28) and the Parent Advisory Board of Queens. I am a product of public schools in NYC. I graduated from JHS 157Q (Halsey) in Rego Park and from Forest Hills High School in Queens. I received a BA in math and computer science from Columbia University, and I have a graduate degree in quantitative finance from NYU. My academic background makes me very good when it comes to dealing with budgets and numbers, and it is hard to fool me with misleading statistics. I care very much about public education in NYC, and I hope that by being on the Council, I will be able to affect some positive changes. There are many bureaucrats and even union leaders who have put the education of our children as a very low priority. We must change that to the top of any priority list if we expect our children to be successful in the future. We will all depend on them one day.</p>



Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Ephraim Zakry	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	28Q440	YES	NO	<p>We need many improvements to our current education system, and I intend to help deliver those improvements. Our children suffered a great deal in NYC in the past year, and we have a lot of damage to fix. Top of the agenda is to open all schools safely in September. My name is Effi Zakry, and I would appreciate your vote. I have children who are special ed students with IEPs, and I have children who are in accelerated programs (one daughter is even taking AP classes and CollegeNow courses in 10th grade). Therefore, I am familiar with both the needs of students who struggle and with the desires of gifted students. My children have been to private schools and public schools, and I was very involved in them all. My diverse background and many different experiences give me a rich perspective that I learned along the way. I serve on two School Leadership Teams (SLT): a middle school and a high school. I am of mixed ethnicities, and I am aware of the struggles many of our communities face. I have served as treasurer of the PTA, and in my tenure our bank account increases by 9 times by cutting many unnecessary expenses and negotiating much better deals. I am currently chair of our Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and I served as its treasurer in the past. I am very involved in the meeting and discussions of District 28 Community Education Council (CEC D28) and the Parent Advisory Board of Queens. I am a product of public schools in NYC. I graduated from JHS 157Q (Halsey) in Rego Park and from Forest Hills High School in Queens. I received a BA in math and computer science from Columbia University, and I have a graduate degree in quantitative finance from NYU. My academic background makes me very good when it comes to dealing with budgets and numbers, and it is hard to fool me with misleading statistics. I care very much about public education in NYC, and I hope that by being on the Council, I will be able to affect some positive changes. There are many bureaucrats and even union leaders who have put the education of our children as a very low priority. We must change that to the top of any priority list if we expect our children to be successful in the future. We will all depend on them one day.</p>
Nick Zolnierowski	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	15K010	YES	NO	
Soraya Guessous	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	Mosaic PreK	YES	NO	<p>I'm learning as much as I can with a conviction that is the key for a great "now" and better future .I am a single mother and really engaged in the education of my son because I believe is the key for him to be in his deserved place in our society. I am really motivate and willing to play a significant role in my son wellbeing. I am a also motivate to help other parents to do so.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Nadira Saban	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	Private School	YES	NO	<p>Throughout my children's school career, I have assisted with fundraising for Arts programs, and enrichment, building a community garden at the school to learn about harvesting and consuming the food, or tending to plants. I also sat in on many IEP meetings to help other parents navigate the bureaucracy and the services that their kids are entitled to, as well as bring all parties together and draft reasonable goals and objectives in the IEP. I have also participated in the fight for getting ABA therapy funded under Medicaid for children on the Autism Spectrum and to help alleviate middle income parents from financial burdens by helping them through the medicaid waiver process. In the past I also participated in market research with the Sesame Workshop providing my feedback as a mother on their educational programing, products and technology as they relate to inclusivity for children with special needs. Moreover, I advocate for adolescents to start job training skills in their communities with local businesses and help these individuals with a routine they can follow and understanding proper etiquette in the workplace.</p> <p>At my son's school, I arranged for a rescue shelter to teach about and demonstrate animals they have rescued in the past on a comprehension level of 2nd and 3rd graders. Bringing the animals to school was very therapeutic and exciting for all of the kids across grade levels. As parents, including the teachers we always contribute to a pot of money for gifts for the kids birthday's and thank you gifts for the teachers and admins for doing such incredible work. Educators are under celebrated and often undervalued and it takes a village to raise and educate children, specifically kids with special needs. The level of patience the staff have is incredible. I am applying for this position to help support admins and eductors do their jobs as well as listen to parent's needs, who may be frustrated with the programmimng offered for their child/ren and may need some support to get through the process with dignity. I have a human rights, political science, and musical background and am currently pursuing my MSW. I believe that I can help bridge the gap between service providers, educators/staff, and parents to ensure the children are learning, thriving and enriched.</p> <p>I am very passionate about children's right to an adequate education that is also of quality and that addresses the needs of childern with special needs to learn among a mainstream population.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Nadira Saban	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M541	YES	NO	<p>Throughout my children's school career, I have assisted with fundraising for Arts programs, and enrichment, building a community garden at the school to learn about harvesting and consuming the food, or tending to plants. I also sat in on many IEP meetings to help other parents navigate the bureaucracy and the services that their kids are entitled to, as well as bring all parties together and draft reasonable goals and objectives in the IEP. I have also participated in the fight for getting ABA therapy funded under Medicaid for children on the Autism Spectrum and to help alleviate middle income parents from financial burdens by helping them through the medicaid waiver process. In the past I also participated in market research with the Sesame Workshop providing my feedback as a mother on their educational programing, products and technology as they relate to inclusivity for children with special needs. Moreover, I advocate for adolescents to start job training skills in their communities with local businesses and help these individuals with a routine they can follow and understanding proper etiquette in the workplace.</p> <p>At my son's school, I arranged for a rescue shelter to teach about and demonstrate animals they have rescued in the past on a comprehension level of 2nd and 3rd graders. Bringing the animals to school was very therapeutic and exciting for all of the kids across grade levels. As parents, including the teachers we always contribute to a pot of money for gifts for the kids birthday's and thank you gifts for the teachers and admins for doing such incredible work. Educators are under celebrated and often undervalued and it takes a village to raise and educate children, specifically kids with special needs. The level of patience the staff have is incredible. I am applying for this position to help support admins and eductors do their jobs as well as listen to parent's needs, who may be frustrated with the programmimng offered for their child/ren and may need some support to get through the process with dignity. I have a human rights, political science, and musical background and am currently pursuing my MSW. I believe that I can help bridge the gap between service providers, educators/staff, and parents to ensure the children are learning, thriving and enriched.</p> <p>I am very passionate about children's right to an adequate education that is also of quality and that addresses the needs of childern with special needs to learn among a mainstream population.</p>
Nadira Saban	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	01M332	YES	NO	
Marco Battistella	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	03M479	NO	NO	

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Marco Battistella	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	Private School	Yes	NO	<p>With 3 children that are in or have gone through the public school system, all with IEP's, I have been an elected parent leader and advocate for public school parent rights, for over a dozen years. In 2008/2009 I was an elected SLT member of PS87 in District 3 in Manhattan. I then served 4 terms as an elected member and officer of CEC3, including a term as President. More recently I have focused on parents and students rights in the Special Education and District 75 system, serving two terms as an elected member of the Citywide Council on Special Education. I am a founding officer and member of the Education Council Consortium (ECC), which has been so effective in representing parents across the City, and I also founded and led the New York Cares volunteer organization. My day job is running a non profit which provides housing for the homelss and low income families and individuals. I believe that the DOE must do better in terms of educating and providing services to ALL students with special needs, especailly so during Covid. It's unacceptable that so many of our kids aren't receiving their mandated services, and that adequate funding for students with special needs is not a priority of the DOE and our elected officials. I will continue to work to make it so, and to provide equally opportunity for all of our students, including those with IEPs. I ask for your vote to continue my work as a strong voice for parents and students who too often have been left behind. Thank you.</p>

Candidate	Council	Council Description	DBN	IEP	LEP	Candidate Statement
Allen Williams, Sr.	CCSE	Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE)	26Q266	YES	NO	<p>Serving on the Education Council is important to me because of my long standing service on the District 29 Community District Education Council. Through my tenure I have been a member, the treasurer during my first term and am currently serving as the first Vice-President. I have provided input to the Chancellor and Panel for Educational Policy on district concerns and have facilitated a Chancellor's Town Hall for District 29. It would be my honor and privilege to take what I have learned in District 29 and apply my skills to District 26.</p> <p>During my first term on the CEC 29 council, I was the IEP representative and lead advocate educating parents on policies and procedures which impact students with disabilities. As I am a parent of two children with disabilities, the issues pertaining to compliance, instruction and social emotional learning are critical to the development of my children and the children who have IEP's. Additionally, as the creator and founder of the District 29 Annual History Fair for Pre-K - 8 students, published curriculum guidelines for the competition including the topic and more recently the oral presentation rubric. I created an event which promotes all students talents and hones their written and verbal skills. Finally, as a Community Liaison for the 230th Street North Block Association, I work with business and community they serve to a point of contact in the community</p>