

## News & Views from the DOE- March 6, 2009

### City Set to Open 42 New Schools in September

Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Klein [announced](#) that 42 new schools will open this September, bringing the total number of schools created under the current administration to 333. The new schools were chosen from 118 proposals submitted to the Department of Education by educators, community-based organizations, elected officials and intermediary groups.

"Tens of thousands of students—across all grade levels, throughout five boroughs, including both our most accomplished students and those who have struggled—are thriving today in schools that didn't exist in 2002," Mayor Bloomberg said.

"New schools are working well for students, especially those in traditionally underserved areas of the city." said Chancellor Klein.

To learn more, watch our [video story](#) about the announcement.

### Run for CECs!

There's one week left to recruit candidates for the Community and Citywide Education Council elections. Parents who are interested in getting involved should visit [www.powertotheparents.org](http://www.powertotheparents.org). All New Yorkers should spread the word to help recruit strong candidates before the March 14 deadline.

The Councils were designed in 2003 to ensure that parents have a voice in education and are able to provide hands-on leadership and support to public schools. Their success depends on a large candidate pool of talented and committed parents. The nomination process has been streamlined this year and parents can nominate themselves online. All parents are eligible to run for the Councils.

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## What People Are Saying...

### About Mayoral Control

"Mayoral control of public education has gained currency in recent years, including in Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and Washington, D.C. Results vary from place to place, but one clear success story has been New York City, where the policy deserves to be extended."

"Mayoral control has also been a boon for reformers looking to expand school choice for low-income families. In 2002, New York City had fewer than 20 charter schools; next year it

will have more than 100. This is a direct result of charter-friendly policies pushed by the mayor that would have been blocked by teacher union control of the school board. Mr. Klein's long tenure -- now seven years -- also makes for more policy staying power."

"The way to truly empower parents is to let them decide where their children attend school. Mayoral control is no education panacea, but to the extent that it is aiding competition and raising standards in New York it is saving thousands of kids from the tyranny of union-dominated failure."- [The Wall Street Journal editorial, March 6, 2009](#)

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### About School Performance

"The number of city schools on the state's failing list dropped to its lowest level since 1989 as a result of rising test scores, mirroring a trend statewide."

"Today's news is another sign of the progress we've made turning America's largest school district around,' said Mayor Bloomberg."-[Daily News, March 2, 2009](#)

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### Worth Reading...

"In some circles, Mr. Klein is revered: as a star prosecutor turned crusader for the underclass, a fearless innovator willing to take on the powerful teachers' union. Australia's education minister flew him in for six days in November, and Arne Duncan swept into Brooklyn on one of his first school visits as education secretary, calling him 'someone I've learned a tremendous amount from.'"

"Their takeover has brought sweeping change to a system long viewed as failing its neediest students, and Mr. Klein, a former Justice Department official, deserves credit for channeling enormous resources to lift achievement where it had lagged most."-[The New York Times, March 5, 2009](#)

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"To help struggling schools, the federal government will use stimulus funding to encourage states to expand school days, reward good teachers, fire bad ones and measure how students perform compared with peers in India and China, Education Secretary Arne Duncan said yesterday."

“Duncan said he wants struggling schools to use federal aid to adopt on a grander scale ideas that are producing results on a trial basis in some locales. He pointed to longer school days, instituted by some public charter schools, as essential to help struggling students make up lost ground.”- [The Washington Post, March 5, 2009](#)