



**THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**

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Dear Members of the District 30 Community,

I am so excited to begin the 2018-19 school year. For those of you who know me, I love reading and usually start every meeting with a read aloud of a children's book that connects to our work. This year I launched the year with our principals by reading the book, *"What Do You Do with A Chance?"* by Kobi Yomada. I chose this book because it is all about being brave and being willing to take risks. Each school year is another chance for us to surpass our prior years' accomplishments and establish new goals. It is my hope that all students, families, friends and members of our school communities start this new school year with a renewed spirit, ready to make new friends, listen to new ideas and learn new strategies, skills and technologies that will lead to college and career success.

Since we have come together as a district, I have asked everyone to always consider ***"How is this good for ALL children?"*** when proposing new ideas or making changes. When we keep our children at the forefront of every decision, it has the power to unite for the common goal of doing what is in the best interest of ALL children. We are aware that not all children come to school with equal advantages. It is our responsibility to promote equity for all. Every child is unique and we must provide students with the supports that will ensure their success and contribution to society. This year, we are building on our previous accomplishments as we focus on creating **Empathy, Equity and Excellence** across all schools in the district, as outlined in the following goals:

During the 2018-19 school year, the District 30 team, along with the Queens North Field Support Center will:

- Support schools in developing and strengthening social-emotional intelligence of all members of the school community in identifying their feelings, recognizing triggers and utilizing strategies to effectively manage and improve their social-emotional well-being that will lead to improved student learning and outcomes.
- Build capacity of school leaders and staff in leading strategic change by identifying achievement gaps, examining root causes, developing, implementing, monitoring and adjusting action plans that will narrow and ultimately close achievement gaps.
- Assist leadership and staff in building capacity in the use of culturally responsive teaching strategies for supporting the development of conceptual understandings and incorporating the hallmarks of advanced literacies into all units of study across all curriculum areas.

This work will lead to improved student outcomes as evidenced in increased proficiency levels on school-based and/or NYS assessments that will narrow and ultimately close achievement gaps.

I am very proud of our partnership with our families, the first educators of their children, and all the staff within our schools. Our community has embraced the idea of being 21st Century educators, who are lifelong learners, and ready to make the changes necessary to be responsive to the needs of all of our children.

As a learning community, we will continue to foster a culture of collaboration and connectedness among our District 30 schools. We will continue to support school staff in strengthening teaching practices and in taking risks as they work to create equity and ensure the success of ALL students.

I am so grateful to work alongside our dedicated parents/guardians, community members and professionals. When we work together, everyone achieves more. Keep up the great work and collaboration TEAM 30. We are all CHAMPIONS for our children!

With appreciation,

Philip A. Composto, Ed.D.

Dr. Philip A. Composto
Community Superintendent