

# MEDIA ADVISORY

February 26, 2021

## **#KeepNYCSchoolsOpen Reacts to Carranza Resignation; Calls New York City Public School “Open in Name Only”**

**New York City**—New York City families and supporters of the #KeepNYCSchoolsOpen movement reacted with equal parts confusion and optimism to the news of Department of Education Chancellor (DOE) Richard Carranza’s resignation—effective mid-March—and his replacement by Bronx Superintendent Meisha Porter.

“It is unnerving to hear of a sudden change in leadership in the midst of an educational crisis brought about by the pandemic,” said Daniela Jampel, a #KeepNYCSchoolsOpen organizer and spokesperson. “At the same time, we are heartened to hear of the interim Chancellor’s promise to fully reopen schools, including high schools, which remain closed indefinitely. We are encouraged by Chancellor Porter’s invitation to partner with advocates and are ready to join her in an open dialogue.

Contrary to Mayor Bill de Blasio’s claim that New York City schools have “reopened,” public schools remain fully closed for the majority of the City’s 1 million students. Only a fraction of pre-K through 8th grade and District 75 students are currently enrolled in “hybrid”—or part-time—in-person school; however, because of the UFT-designed, arbitrary [“two unlinked case rule.”](#) hundreds of these schools are closed to students every day.

“Despite what the Mayor says, New York City public schools are open in name only and should not be considered the ‘gold standard’—or any standard—of an open district,” Jampel said. “The two case rule continuously shuts our schools down, high schools are being used as vaccination sites and, even in the best case scenario, only a fraction of NYC’s public school children attend school on any given day.”

“We hope that the new Chancellor is able to put the needs of children and families first, and we are excited to work together to reopen schools for all children whose families want an in-person, full time education,” she added.

On March 13, members of the #KeepNYCSchoolsOpen movement will join New York City families, students, teachers, coaches, and politicians to mark the one year anniversary of school closures with a rally outside City Hall.

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