

Coalition for Multiple Pathways to a Diploma

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Statement of Purpose

We have come together to urge the creation of multiple pathways to a diploma in New York State, each of which holds all students to high expectations, provides them with quality instruction, and opens doors to career and post-secondary education opportunities. We believe that measuring college- and career-readiness requires valuing multiple and equally valid ways to assess the skills needed for success in the workplace and higher education and supports a diversity of learning styles and goals.

Core Principles

We believe that any alternate pathway must:

1. Be available to all students, not just students with disabilities
2. Not depend on the passing of high-stakes tests
3. Lead to a regular high school diploma recognized by colleges and employers
4. Allow students to specialize, including in Career and Technical Education (CTE), and should not be one-size-fits-all
5. Begin early and connect with middle school and lower grade curricula yet be flexible enough to benefit students who arrive in high school, change schools frequently or have interrupted education
6. Build upon and encourage development of individual student strengths
7. Respect student and family choice after a careful consideration of the student's individual goals and full range of options, with no student being assigned to a pathway without the informed consent of the student and his or her family
8. Have value to employers and colleges and make meaningful links to post-secondary opportunities and preparedness

2015 Legislative Priorities

We call upon the New York State Legislature to:

- *Increase funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and ensure that these programs are made accessible to all students. We support the Board of Regents' request for an additional \$139 million in the 2015-2016 budget to provide increased support for CTE programs.*
- *Hold the New York State Education Department and the Board of Regents accountable for improving graduation outcomes for the 24 percent of New York State students who do not graduate within 4 years, through the development of instructional and assessment pathways to a diploma.*
- *Hold the New York State Education Department and the Board of Regents accountable for ensuring that all students have access to instructional pathways, including CTE programs.*

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Members of the Diploma Coalition Include:

Advocates for Children of New York • Alliance for Quality Education • Annenberg Institute for School Reform • ARISE Coalition • Jessica Bacon, Professor, Lehman College • Lynn Bass, Principal, Tapestry Charter High School • David C. Bloomfield, Esq., Professor of Educational Leadership, Law & Policy, Brooklyn College and The CUNY Graduate Center • Brooklyn Defender Services • Bronx Independent Living Services • Brooklyn Center for the Disabled • Business Teachers Association of New York State • Campaign for Tomorrow's Workforce • Capital Region Refugee Roundtable • Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York • Citizens' Committee for Children of New York • Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies • Council of New York Special Education Administrators • Valerie DeClara, Parent • Robert Dodd, New York City Special Education Teacher • Families Together in New York State • Ann Marie FitzPatrick, Parent • Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project • Good Shepherd Services • Green Chimneys Children's Services • Roberta Grogan, Parent/Advocate • Holly Gurnick, Parent • Shelley Hubal, Parent • Jill Lewis-Flood, Parent • Meghan Healy • Internationals Network for Public Schools • Lawyers for Children, Inc. • Learning Disabilities Association of New York State • Long Island Advocacy Center • Long Island Communities of Practice • Noreen Maher, Parent • Diana Mendez, Parent • Mental Health Association of New York City • Neighborhood Family Services Coalition • New York Immigration Coalition • New York Lawyers for Public Interest • New York Performance Standards Consortium • New York State Association for Bilingual Education • New York State Coalition of 853 Schools • New York State Community of Practice on Family, School and Community Collaboration • New York State Disabilities Advocacy Association and Network • New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSILC) • New York State Rehabilitation Association • New York State Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (NYTESOL) • Regina Paleau, Parent • Parent to Parent New York, Inc. • Queens Community House • Resources for Children with Special Needs • Lynn Russo, Parent • Tracey Shannon, Parent • Sinergia • The Advocacy Center • United We Stand • Upward Bound • Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools • Marcia Vogel, Parent/Advocate • YOUTH POWER!