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**2023 NY State Joint Legislative Budget Hearing**  
**Elementary and Secondary Education Testimony**

My name is Nikos Papageorgiou and I am a father of two boys in the NYC public system; a High School senior and a Middle School Senior.

I drove up here to let you know that

**“We are not getting our money’s worth from the NYC DOE.”**

- 1. We are not getting our money’s worth because feelings and politics are driving NYC Educational planning instead of trying to maximize all the kids’ academic potential. The NYC DOE is trying to close the educational gap by lowering the ceiling instead of raising the floor.**

The NYC DOE tries to look artificially good. Since one of the goals is to close the educational cap between top and bottom students, the DOE tries to accomplish that with decisions that lower the ceiling instead of raising the floor.

Such decisions include, but not limited to, no accelerated learning, no challenging work, not even homework

Our kids deserve better. The parents demand better and leaving the system by the thousands.

***Please demand better for our money.***

- 2. We are not getting our money’s worth because Chancellor Banks didn’t follow through with the mayor’s promise for excellence in education.**

Chancellor Banks made a huge mistake by allowing Superintendents implement their own plans across their districts. Superintendents turned on their “selective hearing” mode and did whatever they wanted for whatever reasons, driving thousands of families away from NYC public education

Mr. Banks and the Mayor can’t “export” the political pressure, that comes with the city’s educational planning, to the Superintends. They need to address it by following through with their promises, that got them elected in the first place. They need to come up with a uniform educational plan, based on excellence, as promised by Mayor Adams, and ask the Superintendents to implement it.

***Please demand from the NYC mayor and chancellor to face up to their responsibilities.***

**3. We are not getting our money's worth, because the NYC DOE doesn't have Objective Measures of Success.**

Most schools in NYC measure their academic success by the percentage of the kids that are above a self-defined "grade level". Grade level competency is probably the most important data point, but it should not be the only one.

Because they don't care, schools right now, don't keep track, if during the school year an A student becomes a B student or if a B student becomes a C student. My son's Middle School for example, pad itself on the back last year for achieving a self-selected "above grade level" percentage of 70%, even though a huge number of kids finished the year "much worse of" than they started, as compared to the National Average.

Please don't let the schools waste our money and pad themselves on the pack, while they disservice most of their students. The city is already spending millions on a new testing platform but ignores the data.

***Please demand Objective Measures of Success that keeps track the progress of every student.***