

Hello my Name is Tanesha Grant and I am founder and chief executive officer of Parents Supporting Parents NY and Moms United For Black Lives NYC. I'm here to testify to end Mayoral control of our public schools. Ever since Bloomberg took control of our public schools as mayor our education system has gotten worse. We the community the parents and students are tired of not having any power to change the multiple problems within our school system. Personally I'm tired of people who will never have a child in the schools in my community having the final say on how our schools are run. It has not worked. Since years before the pandemic our students, parents, education organizations and teachers have consistently advocated for a number of things that we know will help our students truly learn and have their emotional, social, mental health and physical health cared for. We have seen just how poorly managed DOE central is and how they have no idea what is needed in our schools. The past several Mayors leadership has been horrible and our students continue to suffer for it. Everyone talks about the inequities that have been built into the education system by the people who lead The Department of Education. But no one has fixed it. In fact they have made it worse. I believe the only concern of the mayor is an economic concern. Time after time we hear the mayor talking about how our children being in school helps the economy. Mayoral control needs to end and parents like me who work on various issues like Culturally Responsive Education, technology for all, counselors not cops, solutions not suspensions and many more issues are tired of our hard work being co opted by the mayor and DOE. The DOE has a 38 billion dollar budget but somehow public school in my community stay underfunded. Every year I witness public school dollars being wasted instead of used efficiently to educate our children. It is past time that the DOE works with the parents of public school children to ensure a positive school experience for all students. The current mayor son is a full grown man. The mayor does not know what its like to have a child in the public school system in 2022 so I ask how can you make these very important decisions on what is best for public school children with no experience? If we are going to educate our children in the right way it starts with who's put in charge of leadership. Leaders listen to and work with stakeholders to make positive changes accordingly. Leaders do not say this is the way it is because "I'm the mayor". For those and many more reasons my and my organizations along with a vast amount of parents, students and teachers understand this year we must end Mayoral control of our public schools and empower parents and students to make the very necessary changes our students need to thrive in the NYC public school system rather than survive the public school system. Thank you for listening to this Black mothers testimony.