



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Brian Benjamin

## State Senator Brian A. Benjamin to Host Wadleigh Victory Rally

BRIAN BENJAMIN April 25, 2018

| ISSUE: **EDUCATION**

\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*

April 25, 2017

Contact: Neil D. Reilly, 774.766.2351 | New York State Senator Brian A. Benjamin

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To celebrate the community's successful campaign to save the Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing & Visual Arts' middle school from truncation by the New York City Department of Education, New York State Senator Brian A. Benjamin will hold a victory rally tomorrow at the school.

**WHAT** Press Conference to Celebrate Saving Wadleigh Middle School

**WHEN** Thursday, April 26 | 3:30 pm

**WHERE** Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing & Visual Arts

215 West 114 Street | New York, NY 10026

**WHO** State Senator Brian A. Benjamin

Students, Teachers, and Parents from Wadleigh

Senior Representative of the New York City Department of Education

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

Council Member Bill Perkins

Assemblymember Inez E. Dickens

Assemblymember Al Taylor

Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, President of the NAACP NY State Conference

C. Virginia Fields, Former Manhattan Borough President & President/CEO of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc

District Leader Cordell Cleare, District Leader William Allen

Paul McIntosh, Wadleigh Librarian

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## **BACKGROUND**

Over the last four months, Senator Benjamin and the Harlem community have steadfastly stood with the students and parents of Wadleigh's middle school to fight the DOE's proposed truncation of the middle school. Senator Benjamin's efforts to date include:

- Joined students and parents in community meetings, small meetings with the DOE, a public hearing, and community rallies, including a student-led rally.
- Sent a letter to former Chancellor Carmen Fariña with New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer asking for more information about how this decision was reached.
- Introduced legislation, S8001, to require a majority vote of the State Senator, Assembly member, member of the House of Representatives, Borough President, and City Council member who represent a school to approve proposed school closings or significant changes in school utilization.
- Participated in a recent meeting with Mayor Bill de Blasio and new Chancellor Richard Carranza and other elected officials, where he proposed Wadleigh Middle School collaboration concept with FDA II that was reviewed and accepted by the Mayor and DOE.

Wadleigh is a long-standing Harlem institution that provides the students access to a unique arts education in a historic arts incubator. Wadleigh's truncation proposal was scheduled for a vote with the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) on Wednesday, April 25th, and was pulled from the agenda prior to the PEP hearing.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### **2017-S8001**

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- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Requires the approval of the majority of a school's state, city and borough representatives before closing or significantly changing such school

March 19, 2018

In Senate Committee [Education](#)

Sponsored by [Brian Benjamin](#)

Do you support this bill?