



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

News Release

For Immediate Release

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October 13, 2023 (NEW YORK CITY) — *Today, Kim Sweet, Executive Director of Advocates for Children of New York (AFC), issued the following statement in response to the anticipated announcement that New York City will limit shelter stays to 60 days for newcomer families:*

The City's reported decision to limit shelter stays to 60 days for newcomer families will be extraordinarily destabilizing for students, families, and school communities. Newcomer families already faced significant delays getting their children enrolled at the start of the school year. Now, just as students are settling into new classrooms in a new country, their families will have to navigate whether to stay in the same school or switch schools closer to the new shelter placement. Either option will likely result in massive disruption to students' education, whether due to delays in arranging transportation, unworkably long commute times, or being forced to start over yet again with new teachers, new classmates, and a new curriculum. We call on the City to reconsider this destructive policy and put children first, so that all children, including our newest students, have a bright start and bold future.