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## Statement of Purpose

The Coalition for Multiple Pathways to a Diploma is comprised of more than 80 members, including advocacy organizations, educators and families across New York State, representing a broad cross-section of students, including multilingual learners, students with disabilities, students who are overage and under-credited, and economically disadvantaged students. We have come together to urge the creation of a coherent and comprehensive New York State graduation structure that includes multiple pathways to a diploma, 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 are united by the concern that high-stakes standardized exit exams act as an unnecessary barrier to high school graduation for students who have otherwise mastered New York State standards and are college- or career-ready. 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 supporting a diversity of learning styles and goals. We are also united by the concern that access to many instructional programs/pathways, such as Career and Technical Education (CTE) and work-based learning, which have been shown to improve student engagement and reduce dropout rates, has been limited for many students.

## Members of the Coalition Include:

Advocates for Children of New York • Alliance for Quality Education • ARISE Coalition • Asperger Syndrome & High Functioning Autism Association • Big Picture Learning • David C. Bloomfield, Esq., Professor of Educational Leadership, Law & Policy, Brooklyn College & The CUNY Graduate Center • Bronx Independent Living Services • Bronx Defenders • Brooklyn Defender Services • Brooklyn Center for the Disabled • Bonnie Buckley, Founder Multiple Pathways to a Diploma For All • 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 • Citywide Council on Special Education, NYC • Lisa Finnerty Coggi, Parent/Advocate • Community Service Society • Dr. Catherine Costa, Principal/Parent • Council for a Strong America • Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies • Valerie DeClara, Parent • Amber Decker, Family Peer Advocate, Special Support Services • Della DeKay JD, EdD • Max Donatelli, Family Advocate • Eskolta School Research and Design • Irja Estrella, Parent • Families Together in New York State • Ann Marie Fitzpatrick, Parent • Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project • Jennifer Ghidiu, Parent/Advocate • Michael Godino, Advocate • Good Shepherd Services • Roberta Grogan, Parent/Advocate • Lorri Gumanow, Parent/Special Educator • Meghan Healy • HERE to HERE • Rochelle Hoot, Special Education Administrator • Shelley Hubal, Parent • INCLUDEnyc • Muronji Inman-McCraw • Internationals Network for Public Schools • Lawyers for Children, Inc. • Learning Disabilities Association of New York State • Jill Lewis-Flood, Parent/PIP Member • JobsFirst NYC • Long Island Advocacy Center • Long Island Communities of Practice • Chris McNell, Special Education Supervisor/Principal • Diana Medina Mendez, Parent • Mark Anthony Mendez • Mental Health Association of New York City • Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools • New York Council of Administrators of Special Education (NYCASE) • New Visions for Public Schools • New York Immigration Coalition • New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation • 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 Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (NYTESOL) • NY Stop Grad HST • NYU Metro Center • Regina Paleau, Parent • Parent to Parent New York, Inc. • Evelyn Perez, Parent • Catherine Phillips-Russ, Baker Victory Services • Sharon Poole, Education for Everyone Consultant • Queens Community House • Lynn Russo, Parent • SCO Family of Services • Tracey Shannon, Parent • Bruce A. Shields, PhD, Associate Professor of Education, Daemen College • Sinergia Metropolitan Parent Center • Starbridge • Katherine Teasdale-Edwards, School Counselor/Advocate • Amy Ming Tsai, Parent/Advocate for Special Education • United We Stand • Unity Preparatory Charter School of Brooklyn • Christian Villenas, PhD • Marcia Vogel, Parent/Advocate • YOUTH POWER!

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