



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

News Release

For Immediate Release

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AFC Statement on Announcement of Kamar Samuels as Next Schools Chancellor

December 30, 2025 (NEW YORK CITY) — *Maria Odom, Executive Director of Advocates for Children of New York (AFC), issued the following statement in response to the announcement of Kamar Samuels as the next Schools Chancellor:*

We congratulate Kamar Samuels on being named the next Chancellor of New York City Public Schools (NYCPS). As a teacher, principal, and superintendent in our city's schools, Samuels brings deep experience and expertise, including implementing initiatives like NYC Reads and working to integrate schools.

We look forward to working with the incoming Chancellor to strengthen existing initiatives like NYC Reads and undertake new efforts to address systemic challenges facing our public schools. We urge the incoming administration to pursue an education agenda that centers equity and the needs of students who are too often overlooked.

Our [recommendations for the Mayor-elect](#) include ensuring students who need extra help learning to read can get the one-on-one or small group intervention they need; expanding access to direct mental health services and behavioral supports in schools; scaling up specialized programs for students with disabilities and creating new ones to address gaps; increasing the number of bilingual programs and available school options for older newcomer youth; overhauling the decades-old bus contracts and guaranteeing timely transportation for students who are homeless or in the foster system; and more.

We also thank Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos for her decades of service to NYC students and her leadership role in important initiatives on topics ranging from literacy to family engagement to supporting newcomer students. At a time of tremendous uncertainty at the federal level, we are grateful to have had a Chancellor who has been steadfast in her commitment to protecting immigrant students and their families.

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About Advocates for Children of New York (AFC)

Since 1971, Advocates for Children of New York has worked to ensure a high-quality education for New York students who face barriers to academic success, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, disability, race, ethnicity, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. AFC uses four integrated strategies: free advice and legal representation for families of students; free trainings and workshops for parents, communities, and educators and other professionals to equip them to advocate on behalf of students; policy advocacy to effect change in the education system and improve education outcomes; and impact litigation to protect the right to quality education and compel needed reform.