

June 8, 2017

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Flanagan, Speaker Heastie, and Leader Klein:

As the legislative session comes to a close, we write to urge the long-term extension of state legislation authorizing mayoral control of the New York City public school system. Performance data documents improvement in the city schools over the past dozen years, which has been achieved under a governance system that ultimately holds the mayor accountable. This year, we have seen high school graduation rates and many student test results reach record levels. There is no reason for turning away from a successful governance model.

The challenge of building a public education system that works for all students is enormous. It requires flexibility to adapt quickly, to introduce major new programs (such as universal pre-kindergarten), and to provide children with a range of educational options, including adequate numbers of public charter schools. Continued progress depends on consistency and stability in management of the school system.

As employers of more than a million New Yorkers, members of the Partnership for New York City urge you to act now to end uncertainty about the future governance of our city schools and make mayoral control permanent.

Sincerely,

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