

## NYC Mayoral Candidates: Double Down on NYC Reads and NYC Solves

To all declared and prospective New York City mayoral candidates,

**As you campaign for the city's highest office, we, the undersigned organizations, urge you to sustain and strengthen NYC Reads and NYC Solves if elected.**

The city's previous decentralized curricular system failed countless teachers and students, contributing to a reading and math achievement crisis where [only 38%](#) of educators had high-quality curriculum aligned with learning standards. This led to inequity where two-thirds of Black and Latino students were behind in [reading](#) and [math](#). Students experiencing temporary housing or educational disruptions faced even greater challenges when moving between schools with inconsistent curricula.

[Recent NAEP results](#) underscore the consequences of this failure. In fourth-grade math, only 16% of Black and Hispanic students in New York City scored proficient—compared to 53% of white students and 58% of Asian American students. These persistent achievement gaps demanded urgent action.

NYC Reads and NYC Solves marked a turning point. These initiatives are rooted in extensive research showing that [high-quality curricular materials](#), paired with [aligned professional learning](#), significantly improve student outcomes. This approach mirrors the success of states like [Mississippi](#), [Tennessee](#), and [North Carolina](#), where consistent implementation of high-quality instructional shifts led to substantial gains in reading scores within [three to five years](#).

**New York City has the opportunity to become a national model for success, but only if it stays the course and continues to strengthen NYC Reads and NYC Solves.**

[E4E-NY's recent report](#) shows these curricular changes are already making a positive impact. Teachers report favorable perceptions of their curriculum, and those with more experience implementing the shifts express greater confidence. Abandoning this progress now would undermine the hard work of thousands of educators, students, and families who are finally receiving the tools they need to succeed.

As a candidate for mayor, we call on you to make the following commitments:

1. **Stay the Course:** Maintain the implementation of NYC Reads and NYC Solves. These initiatives need time to fully take root and deliver results.

2. **Double Down:** Make multi-year budget investments to sustain and grow professional learning, resources, and support educators need to succeed in implementing these programs.
3. **Engage Stakeholders:** Commit to ongoing collaboration with educators, parents, and community leaders. Structured opportunities for feedback, transparency, and responsiveness are essential to ensure these initiatives reflect and serve the needs of our communities.

**We urge you to pledge your commitment to these three pillars and make the long-term investments required to ensure NYC Reads and NYC Solves deliver lasting impact.**

The future of our students—and the future of New York City—depends on the Mayor’s bold, sustained leadership in literacy and math education.

Sincerely,

**Marielys Divanne**, Executive Director of Educators for Excellence-New York

**Ashara Baker**, New York State Director of the National Parents Union

**Arlen Benjamin-Gomez**, Executive Director of EdTrust-New York

**Melodie Baker**, Executive Director of ImpactStats

**Crystal McQueen-Taylor**, Executive Director of StudentsFirstNY

**Lynette Guastaferro**, CEO of Teaching Matters

**Jeremiah L. Grace**, Interim CEO of Black Latinx Asian Charter Collaborative

**Gisele Hearne**, Parent Navigator for Parents Supporting Parents

**Ruth Genn**, Executive Director of the Literacy Academy Collective

**Tia Morris**, Executive Director of Teach for America New York

**Jennifer Jones Austin**, CEO & Executive Director of The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies