

STATE OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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In the Matter of an Appeal to the NYS Commissioner of :
Education, AMANDA VENDER; individually and o/b/o :
her minor Children, M.V-W. and N.V-W.; TIA SCHELLSTEDE, :
individually and o/b/o her minor child, W.R.; TANESA :
GRANT, individually and o/b/o her minor child M.M.; :
NAILA ROSARIO, individually, and o/b/o her minor :
child, L.R.; AMY MING TSAI, individually, and o/b/o her :
minor children, M.M.2, J.M., M-L.M., and M-Y.M., and all :
similarly situated NYC Public School Parents/Guardians and their :
respective children, and CLASS SIZE MATTERS, :

VERIFIED
AFFIDAVIT OF
TANESHA GRANT

PETITIONERS, :

Pursuant to Section 310 of the N.Y. Educ. Law, :

-against- :

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY :
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NEW :
YORK, THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT :
OF EDUCATION, AND CHANCELLOR DAVID :
C. BANKS, in his official capacity, :

RESPONDENTS, :

From the Action of the Respondents Regarding Their Issuance of :
the Virtual and Blended Courses Guidance, which Unlawfully :
Permits the Respondents to Assign and Place Petitioners' :
Respective Children in a Virtual or Blended Class :
Without First Obtaining Express Written Consent from :
Petitioner Parents/Guardians, in Violation of the NYSED :
Regulations of the Commissioner, Section 100.2(u). :

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STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF Westchester)

TANESHA GRANT, being duly sworn, deposes, and states:

1. My name is Tanesha Grant. I have a son, M.M., who will be entering the twelfth (12th) grade next year at Eagle Academy, a New York City public school located in Manhattan, New York. I live in the the County of New York, City and State of New York.

2. I am also the founder and executive director of Parents Supporting Parents NY and Moms United For Black Lives NYC. As the leader of these grassroots community-based organizations, I work to support the Black and Brown families in Washington Heights and Harlem, as well as throughout the City and State.

3. This fall, when my son was in 11th grade, his school assigned him to an online college class, without my knowledge or consent. He struggled in that class, in which it was difficult for him to learn and impossible to even contact the teacher.

4. I only found out that he had been assigned to this online class in November, when his transcript reflected a low grade for it. He ended up failing the course, and I had to go all the way to the Superintendent to get that failing grade off his transcript.

5. I am not against online learning, but it is imperative that parents give their consent before their children are assigned to an online class, which never happened in my case.

6. I know from experience and the experience of many other parents who are members of my organizations that in too many New York City schools, communication with parents is horrible. Without requiring parent consent, many parents will never be made aware that their children are assigned to an online class until it is too late to do anything about it.

7. My understanding is that the New York State Education Regulations require parental consent prior to any child being placed in a virtual or online class. However, the NYC DOE has put out guidance saying that students can be put in an online class and remain there until a parent complains, which is not good enough and different from parent consent.

8. I urge the State Education Department to require the NYC DOE to revise their guidance to ensure there is written parent consent before any student is assigned to an online class.

9. I am also aware through my work with parents that many students do not have adequate access to the internet or to laptop computers at home, which is why my organization raises funding to purchase computers for them when the DOE has failed to provide them.

10. If there is no parental consent prior to assigning a student to an online class, many of which will be taken at home, how will the NYCDOE know if that student has adequate access to a computer and/or internet service?

11. In any case, before assigning any students to an online class to be taken at home, the NYCDOE should be obligated to make sure that they have access to adequate equipment and internet service at home, separate and in addition to parent consent, and if not, provide these to each student.

Dated: New York, New York
June 12, 2024



TANESHA GRANT

Sworn to before me this 12
day of June, 2024



Notary Public

Notarized online using audio-video communication

Lee Presser
Online Notary Public
State of New York
Westchester County
Commission #: 01PR0000217
Commission Expires: 02/02/2027