June 9, 2026

Dear Mayor Mamdani and Chancellor Samuels,

We ask that you immediately pause the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in our schools. Thousands of NYC parents and teachers have signed a petition called for a two-year AI moratorium. An open letter was recently released by the organization Fairplay, signed by more than 200 organizations and experts, including medical professionals, calling for a five-year moratorium nationally on the use of AI in schools, because of its risk to student learning and mental health.

The Brookings Institution has issued a report, concluding "*After interviews, focus groups, and consultations with over 500 students, teachers, parents, education leaders, and technologists across 50 countries, a close review of over 400 studies… we find that at this point in its trajectory, the risks of utilizing generative AI in children's education overshadow its benefits.*"

Yet the draft AI guidance posted by the NYC Department of Education is flawed and fails to address the primary concerns of parents and education researchers. It contains no proposals to strengthen the privacy and security of the personal student data collected by AI companies, despite the NY State Comptroller's audit showing that DOE's current privacy policies and processes are riddled with numerous technical failings and are non-compliant with the NY State Ed Law 2D, the student privacy law. This has led to more than 100 student data breaches in recent years and inordinate delays in notifying families past the legal deadline.

Moreover, the AI guidance received no input from parents or teachers before posting, other than an AI Advisory Council, appointed by former Chancellor David Banks, composed primarily of top DOE administrators and ed tech industry representatives. Most crucially, it offers no measures on how the documented risks of AI will protect student learning, cognitive development, basic skills, creativity, critical thinking, mental health, and the environment.

Even now, before the guidance is finalized or public feedback taken into account, DOE appears to be rushing in and expanding the use of AI for children as young as in PreK. Officials have placed dozens of new AI products on the TeachHub site in the last few weeks, encouraging principals and teachers to assign them, including Google Gemini, which prompts students as young as third grade to use AI when they write or draw pictures.

We urge you to hold off and pause the use of AI in our schools except for education on the multiple risks in employing the technology until rigorous guardrails can be developed with public and expert input, to prevent serious damage to NYC children and their future.

Signed,

Council Member Alexa Avilés,
District 38

Council Member Carmen De La Rosa,
Chair of the Committee on Technology
District 10

Council Member Phil Wong,
District 30

Council Majority Leader Shaun Abreu,
District 7

Council Member Joann Ariola,
District 32

Council Member Shirley Aldebol
District 13

Council Member Chris Banks,
District 42

Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers
District 31

Council Member Tiffany Cabán,
District 22

Council Member Harvey Epstein,
District 2

Council Member Elsie Encarnacion,
District 8

Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez,
District 34

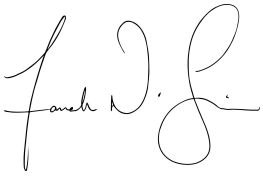
Council Member Shahana Hanif,
District 39

Council Member Kamillah Hanks,
District 49

Council Member Crystal Hudson,
District 35

Council Member Rita Joseph,
District 40

Council Member Shekar Krishnan,
District 25



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District 45

Council Member Christopher Marte,
District 1

Council Member Mercedes Narcisse,
District 46

Council Member Sandy Nurse,
District 37

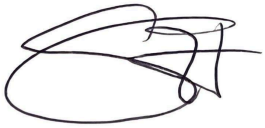
Council Member Lincoln Restler,
District 33

Council Member Yusef Salaam,
District 9

Council Member Pierina Sanchez,
District 14

Council Member Kayla Santosuosso,
District 47

Council Member Lynn Schulman,
District 29



Council Member Shanel Thomas-Henry,
District 21

Council Member Althea Stevens
District 16

Council Member Carl Wilson,
District 3