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# The New York City People's Board of Education



## Guiding Principles Fall 2011

[www.peoplesboard.webs.com](http://www.peoplesboard.webs.com)

- **The People's Board of Education (PBE)** will work within a Human Rights framework as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. According to this Declaration parents, students and their communities have:
  - The Right to Participate in the Governance of the Educational System--
  - The Right to Independently Monitor the System--
  - The Right to adequate Training and Information that would ensure effective participation in the system-
  - The Right to Effective and Timely Remedies when rights are violated—
  
- **The PBE** will create an independent and ongoing city wide public forums to
  - 1) understand and advocate for these rights
  - 2) develop a broad consensus for a new vision of free antiracist Public Education in NYC
  - 3) participate in and monitor the results of the future reorganization efforts
  - 4) develop an action strategy to assure that Federal, State and City laws provide independent public oversight of the Public Education system.
  
- **The PBE** will be composed of individuals from backgrounds and neighborhoods reflecting the racial, nationality, class and gender of the students in the system. These individuals will be knowledgeable about:
  - 1) curricula, pedagogy and specific education issues
  - 2) legislative procedures and policies
  - 3) education law
  - 4) community organizing and training
  - 5) organizational development, fundraising & media. A Citywide Education Coalition Search Committee will reach out to individuals and groups throughout the city to build The PBE.
  
- **Board Members** will be parents, grandparents, students, community members and educators who will be charged to serve only the interests of parents, students and their communities. These concerns will be determined by The PBE's open forums and hearings, studies and surveys.
  
- **The PBE** will hold monthly open forums and/or formal hearings in all five boros to gage public opinion on emerging issues and monthly meetings to conduct business.

- **The PBE** will research and use reports, surveys and studies conducted by other local, state, national and international groups relevant to **The PBE**'s work.
- The work of **The PBE** and its committees will be conducted in regularly scheduled public meetings with full transparency. An elected Steering Committee comprised of parents, students, educators and community representatives will prepare agenda items for the monthly meetings.
- **The PBE** will cooperate with all existing parent organizations, education groups, community-based organizations and grassroots advocates and elected officials dedicated to educational excellence for all NYC students.
- **The PBE** will operate through citywide and boro committees under the authority of by-laws created by a subcommittee and approved by **The PBE** at a public meeting
- **Members** of the school community will be able to take an active role in the deliberation and actions of **The PBE** by attending public meetings and becoming members of citywide or borough committees.
- **The PBE** will refer individual parent/student concerns to appropriate organizations that can help and will follow up to see that these matters were addressed.
- **The PBE** members, once selected, will serve as volunteers for a specified term (*to be determined*) **The PBE** will seek *independent* funding for a full time coordinator and secretary who will be hired by and then assist in the work of **The PBE**.

*Contact us:*



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