

Campaign for Better Schools

What is Mayoral Control of Schools?

In **2002** the state legislature passed a law changing the governance of the New York City public schools. Until then an appointed central school board and elected local boards had decision making power over school budgets and education policy.

The 2002 law gave all decision making power to the mayor and his appointed chancellor. The central school board was re-named the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP). Most of the PEP members are appointed by the mayor and can be removed whenever he decides.

The PEP is still technically required to approve citywide educational policies, but in reality it only has an advisory role because members can be removed if they plan to vote down the mayor's proposals.

June 2009 Mayoral Control is scheduled to end. The State legislature can do several things:

- **Keep some parts** of the system and change other parts; or
- **Renew** mayoral control as it is today;
- **Let it expire** The system that existed prior to 2002 with elected Community School boards and a Central Board will come back.

MAYORAL CONTROL NEEDS REFORM

✓ ***Greater Transparency regarding school finances and student outcomes***

✓ ***Checks and Balances because no one person should decide everything alone***

✓ ***Public Participation for parents, youth, and community in the decision making process***



Campaign for Better Schools

646-257-2863

Zakiyah Ansari, ext. 702 Zakiyah@aqeny.org

Julian Vinocur, ext. 703 Julian@aqeny.org