



Our Schools Speak Your Language

Dear New Yorkers,

Our students and families speak over 180 languages. 180! To me, this number represents the rich cultural tapestry of this city, and the countless opportunities in front of us to see the world from new perspectives.

I want to commend the Community Education Council (CEC) of District 9 for doing just that. Last week, the [District 9 CEC](#) held their town hall meeting in Spanish, with interpretation provided for attendees who speak English and other languages. In doing so, the CEC showed the many District 9 families for whom Spanish is their home language: we see you. It also meant the English speakers experienced what it feels like to participate in a meeting via interpretation. The experience was eye-opening for me—so much so that we are also switching it up in this issue of PS + You, by sending the newsletter in Spanish with a linked English translation.

Every family has the right to engage in their child’s education, and for that reason, language access is a priority across NYCPS. Each of our schools has a Language Access Coordinator, along with designated funding to support communication with all families. Last school year, led by our Office of Language Access, we translated nearly 11,000 IEPs into 51 languages and provided interpretation in 93 languages for over 289,000 phone conversations. We also provide interpretation for meetings and events and translate many other documents and communications. So families, please know:

our schools speak your language! I encourage you to [visit our website](#) to learn more or request language services.

I also want to highlight our efforts to strengthen and expand our [bilingual programs](#). These innovative programs—we had 557 across the city last year—teach students in both English and one of 12 languages, ranging from Bengali to Haitian Creole, Japanese to Polish. We're eager to continue expanding these programs; as our students build multilingualism, they gain the skills to lead and succeed in our globalized society.

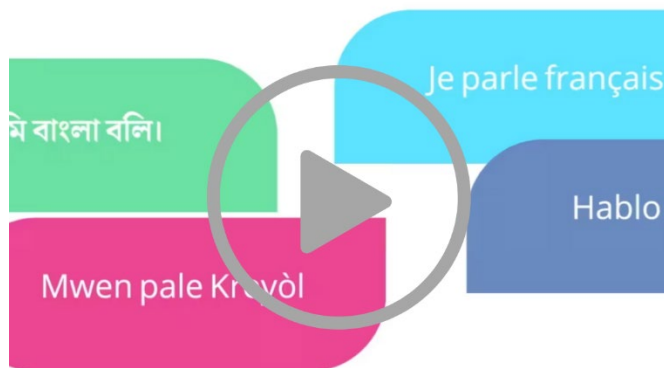
I believe we have so much to learn from each other, and that opening ourselves up to other perspectives, cultures, and languages reinforces our shared humanity. I've said it before and I'll say it again: our city's diversity is our greatest strength.

Soaring high,

David C. Banks

Chancellor

Our Spotlight Video: Available in English



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And here's the [weekly video from Mayor Eric Adams](#). If you're interested in receiving updates directly from the Mayor's Office, [please click here](#).

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