

September 5, 2023

Dear District 15 Families,

Welcome back to school! On behalf of the District 15 Team, I hope that you and your family enjoyed time together this summer to rest and recharge as well as opportunities for recreation as we launch into the 2023-2024 school year. Our staff has worked tirelessly to ensure that all is ready for another successful year filled with meaningful learning and relationship building.

I would like to take the opportunity to discuss two personal practices that can be utilized as we partner together in service of your children to ensure their academic and social-emotional success. Research shows that it isn't natural intelligence or an outgoing personality but consistent practice and remaining open to growth opportunities is the key to success. Success is the decision to work hard and to do one's best each and every day. As parents and caregivers, you can support your children by praising and acknowledging their consistent effort and small wins to celebrate their growth. This will help to reinforce the belief that school is important and that you expect their best.

The second critical quality that greatly impacts the success of your child is attendance. A timely arrival at school will set your child up for a successful day. You can help by ensuring your child is on time, present and prepared for school each day.

As the Superintendent of your district, I look forward to meeting with you to continue to learn more about your community.

**In addition, as we begin to learn about each other I leave you with my pledge:**

- Work with all stakeholders to create a learning environment in which children have the opportunity to develop to their full potential in a safe, warm, and welcoming atmosphere. I believe that education must be a child-centered learning environment. Through this child-centered approach to education, students will be challenged, experience success, become excited about learning, and be motivated to remain learners throughout their lives.
- Support leadership while placing children first. Each child is an individual with unique needs, interests, learning styles, and potentials. We must strive to recognize and value these differences, get to know each individual student, and meet the needs of each student.
- Create an environment that fosters life-long learning. This attitude is promoted by creating an environment that encourages students' natural curiosity so they may develop an excitement for learning. Students need the opportunity to experience hands-on, real-life learning experiences that will challenge, motivate, and light a passion for learning.
- Educate students through a TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) approach. I want all members of the community to feel welcomed and play an active role in their students' education. Please be encouraged to join your School's Leadership Team, Parent Teacher Association and committees to become actively involved in the education of our children. Having school teams work together will help our students reach their highest potential.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at [RALvare4@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:RALvare4@schools.nyc.gov). Again, I look forward to our collaborative journey together.

Warm Regards,

Rafael T. Alvarez  
Superintendent