



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 28, 2026

CONTACT: Thomas Scarabino, TScarabino@equityoffice.nyc.gov, (646) 797-7553

The City of New York Releases 2026 Evaluation of NYC Men Teach Program, Highlighting Progress and Continued Need for Diverse Educators

Evaluation highlights progress diversifying New York City's educator workforce while identifying continued disparities as NYC Men Teach celebrates 10 years

NEW YORK, NEW YORK — Today, the NYC Young Men's Initiative, in partnership with the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity, NYC Public Schools, and the City University of New York (CUNY), released the 2026 Evaluation of the NYC Men Teach Program, outlining the initiative's impact on recruiting, supporting, and retaining male teachers of color in New York City classrooms over the past decade.

Launched in 2016, NYC Men Teach (NYCMT) is a multi-agency initiative designed to strengthen and diversify the educator workforce through mentoring, professional development, alternative certification pathways, summer teaching experiences, and financial assistance. The evaluation, conducted by Westat and L&G Research and Evaluation Consulting, examined program implementation and outcomes between 2016 and 2024.

Highlights from the evaluation include:

- NYC Men Teach served more than 6,300 participants since 2016.
- The initiative contributed 3,193 new male teachers of color to NYC Public Schools between the 2015–16 and 2023–24 school years.
- Participants reported high satisfaction with mentoring, networking, professional development, and financial support provided through the program.
- Retention rates among participants exceeded many citywide and national trends, with 94% retained after one year, 85% after three years, and 78% after five years.
- Despite progress, significant demographic disparities remain between NYC Public Schools students and the educator workforce. During the 2022–23 school year, male teachers represented only 23% of teachers citywide while male students represented 51% of the student population.

The evaluation concludes that NYCMT is successfully contributing to a more diverse educator pipeline while recommending additional improvements related to mentoring access, data collection, implementation consistency, and interagency coordination. [Access the full report.](#)

"Every child deserves to see themselves reflected at the front of the classroom. For the last decade, NYC Men Teach has helped make that a reality for thousands of students across this city. This evaluation shows the progress we've made and charts a course forward for the work still ahead. Our administration remains committed to building an educator workforce that truly reflects the diversity and strength of the greatest city on earth." said **Mayor Zohran Mamdani**.

"Ten years of NYC Men Teach has produced real, measurable results — more than 3,000 male teachers of color in our classrooms, retention rates that exceed national trends, and a pipeline that is making New York City's educator workforce more reflective of its residents," said **Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice Julie Su**. "The impact can be transformative not just for building this all-important workforce but also in terms of student self-confidence, achievement, and educational outcomes."

"In a public education system shaped by longstanding inequities and historical segregation, NYC Men Teach helps address persistent diversity gaps between students and educators by expanding pathways for Black, Hispanic, Asian, and other underrepresented men in education," said **NYC Chief Equity Officer and NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice Commissioner Afua Atta-Mensah**. "This evaluation shows that NYC Men Teach is making meaningful progress in creating classrooms where more students can learn from educators who reflect and understand their lived experiences. While the findings highlight important gains over the past decade, they also remind us that there is still work ahead to ensure every young person in New York City has access to learning environments and opportunities where they feel seen, supported, and empowered both academically and personally."

"CUNY proudly prepares more than one-third of all new New York City public school teachers and is committed to training more men of color for this critical workforce. For 10 years, we have successfully partnered with NYC Men Teach to achieve this goal, bringing on thousands of new educators who feel supported and have been more likely to stay in the classroom. With the ongoing need for new teachers, we will continue to do our part to provide the city with a diverse educator workforce," said **CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez**.

"Every student deserves to see themselves reflected in the adults who guide, support, and believe in them each day," said **New York City Public Schools Chancellor Kamar Samuels**. "As a Black man who began my own journey in education through the Teaching Fellows program, I know firsthand how transformative it can be when talented people are given the opportunity, mentorship, and support to lead in our classrooms. NYC Men Teach has spent the past 10 years creating those pathways for thousands of educators across our city, helping to strengthen and diversify our schools in ways that benefit all students. I hope my own journey serves as an example of what is possible when we invest in educators and open doors for the next generation of leaders."

"NYC Men Teach was built on the belief that students benefit from seeing teachers who understand their experiences, reflect their communities, and can serve as role models both inside and outside the classroom. This is one of the primary reasons I began my career as a public school teacher," said **Executive Director of the NYC Young Men's Initiative, Dr. Steven Chambers**. "This evaluation shows that over the past 10 years, NYC Men Teach has made real progress in helping diversify New York City's educator workforce. The findings show that the program has supported more than 6,300 participants, helped bring thousands of male teachers of color into NYC Public Schools, and provided critical support through mentorship, professional development, financial assistance, and community-building. The report also shows that participants are staying in the classroom at strong rates and value the support systems the

program provides. At the same time, the evaluation makes clear that there is still more work to do. Gaps still exist between the diversity of our students and the diversity of our teachers. Moving forward, we will continue working with our partners to strengthen recruitment pipelines, expand mentorship opportunities, improve coordination across agencies, and ensure educators of color have the support to succeed and remain in the profession long-term. As someone who is proud to now help lead this work through the NYC Young Men's Initiative, I also want to recognize the many leaders, educators, agency partners, advocates, and program staff who helped build NYC Men Teach into the impactful and lasting initiative it is today. This 10-year milestone is a reflection of their vision, commitment, and belief in the power of representation in our schools."

"As Men Teach celebrates its 10th anniversary, this evaluation highlights the meaningful role the program has had in strengthening and diversifying New York City's educator workforce," said **Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity Executive Director Carson Hicks**. "We believe that strong outcomes are driven by partnerships, continuous learning, and listening closely to those closest to the work. This evaluation reinforces the value of building systems that support educators and ensuring that students have access to a diverse and thriving teacher workforce."

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of NYC Men Teach. To celebrate the milestone, the initiative is hosting "10 Events for 10 Years," a citywide series recognizing the educators, students, and communities that have shaped the program's impact over the last decade.

One major milestone of the anniversary campaign was the NYC Men Teach Day: 10th Anniversary Celebration held at BRIC Arts Media on February 9, 2026. The celebration will continue with the "Year End Showcase" on June 17, 2026, at the Brooklyn UFT, one of the initiative's "10 Events for 10 Years," highlighting participant achievements and program successes. [Access the full list of 10 Events for 10 Years and more information about the Year End Showcase.](#)

About NYC Men Teach

NYC Men Teach is funded by the NYC Young Men's Initiative and implemented in partnership with the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity, NYC Public Schools, and CUNY. The initiative works to ensure all students have access to a diverse educator workforce by improving the preparation, recruitment, and retention of male teachers of color in New York City. All programs and activities are open to all eligible applicants without regard to race, gender, national origin, or any other protected characteristic under law.

For more information about NYC Men Teach visit [NYC Men Teach](#) and the [NYC Young Men's Initiative](#).

###