



REPORT & ADVISORY BOARD REVIEW COMMISSION

Comments received between April 20th and May 3rd, 2011

As a public school parent, I respectfully request that you maintain the transparency to which the NYC DoE so proudly aspires. Class size is one of the most important factors parents consider when choosing a school. It tells us more about the state of our schools than almost every other factor, including student test scores, and it ensures the quality of teaching our children receive. Additionally, that reporting is mandated by law. Since there are no parents on the commission, please know that we parents are indeed the stake-holders, and we care deeply about overcrowding in our schools. The quality of New York City public education matters more to me and my future than anyone else because my children sit in those classrooms every day, work hard to concentrate with crowds of distractions, and trust the adults in power to make honorable decisions. Honor the law. Please.

Dear members of the Commission on Reports:

As a parent and teacher, I urge you not to allow the DOE to eliminate any of its mandated reporting on class size or trailers. This is information that is critical for parents to know.

The November class size report contains class size data based on the Oct. 31 audited register. Not only is the February report too late in the year to help parents and advocates concerned about this issue, but it is also far less accurate. It gives the size of class sizes at the end of January, after thousands of NYC high school students have already dropped out, been discharged from their schools. In addition, students who have suffered from over-crowded classes have endured months of gross educational neglect and invisibility. My daughter's over-crowded high school held classes in the hallway, which made hearing and discussion extremely difficult.

The TCU report is also necessary, as there is no data anywhere else, including in the DOE document called the "Blue Book," on how many high school trailers remain (at least 73, in the TCU report); no data on how many actual TCU classrooms there are (at least 600, according to the TCU report) and no data on the current use of any of these classrooms (whether for general education core subjects, special education students, or art, science or drama rooms). Only the TCU report has information on these matters.

Sadly, the city has utterly failed to make significant progress in either of these areas in the last decade. Indeed, our schools have about the same number of TCUs as in 2006, the earliest year for which we have data, and this year, our students are suffering from largest class sizes in the early grades than in any year since 1998, despite repeated promises that both the numbers of trailers and the size of classes would be considerably reduced.

While the DOE may want to suppress information from parents on these two critical problems, allowing them to do so would do a grave disservice to our children, and to the transparency and accountability that New Yorkers have a right to expect from their government.

Yours sincerely,

Dear members of the Commission on Reports:

As a parent, I urge you not to allow the DOE to eliminate any of its mandated reporting on class size or trailers. This is information that is critical for parents to know.

The November class size report contains class size data based on the Oct. 31 audited register. Not only is the

February report too late in the year to help parents and advocates concerned about this issue, but it is far less accurate, as it gives the size of class sizes at the end of January, after thousands of NYC high school students have already dropped out or been discharged from their schools.

The TCU report is also necessary, as there is no data anywhere else, including in the DOE document called the "Blue Book," on how many high school trailers remain (at least 73, in the TCU report); no data on how many actual TCU classrooms there are (at least 600, according to the TCU report) and no data on the current use of any of these classrooms (whether for general education core subjects, special education students, or art, science or drama rooms). Only the TCU report has information on these matters.

Sadly, the city has utterly failed to make significant progress in either of these areas in the last decade. Indeed, our schools have about the same number of TCUs as in 2006, the earliest year for which we have data, and this year, our students are suffering from largest class sizes in the early grades than in any year since 1998, despite repeated promises that both the numbers of trailers and the size of classes would be considerably reduced.

While the DOE may want to suppress information from parents on these two critical problems, allowing them to do so would do a grave disservice to our children, and to the transparency and accountability that New Yorkers have a right to expect from their government.

Yours sincerely,

Dear members of the Commission on Reports:

As a parent, I urge you not to allow the DOE to eliminate any of its mandated reporting on class size or trailers. This information is critical for parents to know.

The November class size report contains class size data based on the Oct. 31 audited register. Not only is the February report too late in the year to help parents and advocates concerned about this issue, but it is far less accurate, as it gives the size of class sizes at the end of January, after thousands of NYC high school students have already dropped out or been discharged from their schools.

The TCU report is also necessary, as there is no data anywhere else, including in the DOE document called the "Blue Book," on how many high school trailers remain (at least 73, in the TCU report); no data on how many actual TCU classrooms there are (at least 600, according to the TCU report) and no data on the current use of any of these classrooms (whether for general education core subjects, special education students, or art, science or drama rooms). Only the TCU report has information on these matters.

Sadly, the city has utterly failed to make significant progress in either of these areas in the last decade. Indeed, our schools have about the same number of TCUs as in 2006, the earliest year for which we have data, and this year, our students are suffering from largest class sizes in the early grades than in any year since 1998, despite repeated promises that both the numbers of trailers and the size of classes would be considerably reduced.

While the DOE may want to suppress information from parents on these two critical problems, allowing them to do so would do a grave disservice to our children, and to the transparency and accountability that New Yorkers have a

right to expect from their government.

Yours sincerely,