



The Coalition of Community Charter Schools

www.c3s.nyc

Who We Are

C3S is a member-run organization of independent, public charter schools in New York City that pursues a positive and collaborative role for charter schooling as part of our public education system. Located in all five boroughs, serving students of all grade levels with varying needs, and implementing a broad range of instructional and organizational models, C3S schools exemplify the diversity, innovation, quality, and commitment to community that inspired the original vision of the public charter school movement. Over half of the charter schools in New York City, and half of the charter schools in the United States, are independently run. C3S aims to be the connective tissue that links these unique, independent models together.

What We Do

- We support independently run charter schools. We understand their unique challenges; we tell their stories. What these schools have accomplished individually and collectively is breathtaking.
- We organize and engage parents to be effective members of their school communities. We train parents to counter the persistent myths about charter schools and meet with local officials to advocate on behalf of their schools and increase awareness of educational issues.
- We leverage our community-based power. We are known and respected in our communities; we are known and respected in NYC as an agent for positive change in education.
- We engage our electeds. They can't ignore us; their constituents choose us.
- We bring together all stakeholders in public education to share ideas, strategies and resources, and to celebrate the diversity that is the backbone of the public charter school movement.
- We are planning an Independent Charter School Symposium to be held in the Fall of 2017 in which we will convene charter school leaders and advocates from across the country to discuss the future of the charter movement.

What We've Accomplished

- C3S was instrumental in getting facilities reimbursement procedures in place for new and expanding charter schools, as mandated by SED in March, 2015. Schools are now receiving tens of thousands of dollars to offset rental costs.
- We have hosted a series of member events which have been attended and endorsed by the New York City Mayor's Office, the New York City Department of Education and the New York State Education Department. Our speakers have included respected educators, advocates, elected representatives, executives from charter authorizing organizations and thought leaders on contemporary educational issues.
- C3S has built relationships with the National Council of La Raza, UNCF, The Ford Foundation, CEI-PEA, New Visions for Public Schools, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, and other stakeholders in pursuit of improving public education.
- Our advocacy work includes an unprecedented meeting with members of the NYS Assembly Education Committee.
- We have connected and facilitated meetings with school leaders and their elected officials, locally and in Albany.
- C3S continues to host Independent Charter School Fairs and ongoing Job Fairs.