

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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February 24, 2026
Start: 10:41 a.m.
Recess: 11:00 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Eric Dinowitz, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Carmen N. De La Rosa
Amanda Farías
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Rita C. Joseph
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Lynn C. Schulman
Phil Wong
Susan Zhuang

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check, mic check.

3 This is a mic check for the vote on Education.

4 Today's date is February 24, 2026, recorded by Walter
5 Lewis in HR 1.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, good
7 morning. Welcome to the New York City Council
8 Committee vote on Education.

9 At this time, we ask that you please
10 silence all electronics, and at no point please do
11 not approach the dais.

12 Chair, you may begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: [GAVEL] Good
14 morning. Welcome everyone. It's like my first time as
15 a Council Member. Good morning, welcome everyone. I'm
16 Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Chair of the Committee
17 on Education. First, I want to acknowledge my
18 Colleagues that are here, Council Member De La Rosa,
19 Wong, Louis, Lee, Zhuang, Joseph, Krishnan, and
20 Farías.

21 Today, the Committee is voting on
22 Proposed Introduction Number 203-A, sponsored by
23 Council Member Jen Gutiérrez. The bill would require
24 the Department of Education to report quarterly on
25 invoices received from early childhood care and

2 education providers that the Department has
3 contracted with to provide these services. The
4 reporting required in the bill would include the
5 number and value of invoices in total, how many are
6 approved versus rejected, the average amount of time
7 it takes to process invoices, the number and value of
8 contracts for which advances are made, and
9 identification of the main reasons for rejections,
10 and recommendations for improvements to the process.
11 This legislation will demand greater visibility,
12 consistency, and accountability in how the City pays
13 providers for work they have already performed under
14 contract.

15 High-quality early childhood education is
16 a cornerstone of childhood development, yet our
17 system often suffers from fragmentation, insufficient
18 funding, and inequitable access. As public investment
19 in early childhood education grows, the need for
20 transparent, accurate reporting on how funds flow to
21 providers has become paramount. For providers,
22 consistent tracking of these payments reduces
23 financial instability and allows these providers to
24 focus on classroom quality. For the public,

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2 transparent reporting of this data fosters greater
3 accountability and trust.

4 I would like to thank my own Staff, Adam
5 Staropoli and Jenna Klaus, and the Education
6 Committee Staff, Legislative Counsel Alejandro
7 Carvajal; Senior Policy Analyst Chloë Rivera; and
8 Policy Analyst Katie Salina; and Financial Analysts
9 Andrew Lane Lawless and Grace Amato.

10 I would also like to announce we have on
11 virtually Council Member Schulman.

12 I will now turn it to the Clerk to take
13 the roll.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
15 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
16 Roll call vote, Committee on Education. Proposed
17 Introduction 203-A.

18 Chair Dinowitz.

19 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Yes.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

23 De La Rosa. Farías.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

3 Gutiérrez. Joseph.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Krishnan.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

10 Schulman.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

13 you.

14 Zhuang.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Wong.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
19 vote of 10 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
20 and no abstentions, item has been adopted by the
21 Committee.

22 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Thank you. We'll be
23 holding the vote open.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

25 Continuation roll call, Committee on Education.

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2 Council Member Gutiérrez.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye. Thank you
4 so much, Chair Dinowitz, for all of your support.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is
6 now 11 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
7 no abstentions.

8 CHAIRPERSON DINOWITZ: Adjourned. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date February 25, 2026