

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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September 25, 2025

Start: 9:57 a.m.

Recess: 10:03 a.m.

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

B E F O R E: Rita C. Joseph, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric Dinowitz
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana Hanif
Kamillah M. Hanks
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farrah N. Louis
Mercedes Narcisse
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check on the Committee of Education for the vote in
4 Hearing Room 1 recorded by James Marino on September
5 25, 2025.

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

9 At this time, can everybody please
10 silence your cell phones.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: [GAVEL] Good morning
13 and welcome everyone. I am Council Member Rita
14 Joseph, Chair of the Committee on Education.

15 Today, the Committee is voting on the
16 following legislation. Intro. Number 955-A sponsored
17 by Council Member Riley, a local law to amend the
18 Administrative Code of the City of New York in
19 relations to afterschool programs; Resolution Number
20 718 sponsored by myself calling on the New York State
21 Department of Education to adopt oral health
22 education for all elementary schools students; and
23 Proposed Resolution Number 929-A sponsored by Council
24 Member Gale Brewer calling on the New York State
25 Legislature to pass and Governor to sign known as the

Protect Our Schools Act in relation to protecting students, faculty, and staff from civil arrest while attending or participating in school activities. The Committee previously heard testimonies on this legislation at a June 18, 2025 hearing on advancing diversity and equity in New York City public schools.

We are joined today by Council Member Hanif, Council Member Narcisse, Council Member Guti rrez, Council Member Krishnan, Council Member Schulman, Council Member Lee, Council Member Hanks, Council Member Stevens. On remote we have Council Member Louis, Council Member Sanchez, and Council Member Gennaro.

I'll turn it over to my Colleagues to deliver remarks on their legislation.

Is Council Member Riley here? No?

Council Member Brewer? Okay.

So, dental cavities are the most common chronic disease among children and adult despite being largely preventable through basic daily practices like brushing and flossing. Public health agencies emphasize that oral hygiene habits should begin as early as infancy. Instilling these habits in elementary school age children can lay the foundation

for lifelong oral health and reduce the risk of complications such as tooth decay, infection, and associated systematic health issues. Yet all students receive instructions on proper dental hygiene, and children from low incomes are statistically twice as likely to suffer from untreated cavities compared to their higher income peers. More than a third of New York City third graders already show signs of untreated tooth decay. This inequity stems in part from equal access to health education at home and in school. To address these concerns, my Resolution, 718, seeks to integrate oral hygiene education into early public school curricula to help close the gap and promote lifelong health. I encourage my Colleagues to vote yes on these important pieces of legislation.

I would also like to thank my Staff and my Committee Staff.

I will now turn to the Clerk to call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on Education. All items are coupled.

Chair Joseph.

1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION 5

2 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

6 you. Gennaro. Dinowitz. Sanchez. Gutiérrez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

9 Hanks.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Krishnan.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

22 you. One moment. One moment, Council Members.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: I'm here. Did you

24 call my name? I'm sorry.

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1 COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Yes.

3 Thank you. Council Member Sanchez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Yes, aye. Thank
5 you.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
7 you. Dinowitz.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
10 you.

11 With a vote of 12 in the affirmative,
12 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, all items
13 have been adopted by the Committee.

14 CHAIRPERSON JOSEPH: [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 September 30, 2025