



# THE CITYWIDE COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT 75

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## Resolution #20

### Citywide Council for District (CCD75) Resolution on Inclusive Participation and Open Meeting Law Reform

Sponsored by Christi Angel

WHEREAS the Citywide Council for District 75 (CCD75) represents over 25,000 students with significant and complex disabilities—students classified among the highest need in New York City, including those with autism, Down syndrome, intellectual and developmental disabilities, emotional disturbances, and multiple impairments;

WHEREAS every CCD75 member is a parent or guardian of a child with significant disabilities, and many members themselves live with physical, cognitive, sensory, or mental health disabilities that impact their ability to attend meetings in person;

WHEREAS barriers such as lack of accessible transportation, chronic illness, limited mobility, absence of childcare, and the need for assistive technology or interpretation services (such as for hearing-impaired members) present severe obstacles to full engagement and participation;

WHEREAS the current New York State Open Meetings Law only permits remote attendance under “extraordinary circumstances,” and only counts virtually attending members toward quorum if they meet a narrow legal definition of disability—thereby excluding and marginalizing many District 75 parent leaders;

WHEREAS CCD75 parents are often navigating constant crises, overwhelming care schedules, and significant emotional and financial stress, and cannot equitably engage in civic leadership without modern, flexible options for access;

WHEREAS virtual and hybrid participation models have already demonstrated increased parent engagement, consistent attendance, and broader inclusion for families of the highest and most complex needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Citywide Council for District 75 urges the New York State Legislature and Governor to amend the Open Meetings Law to allow fully remote participation and quorum recognition for all CCD75 members, regardless of disability documentation or classification;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CCD75 members be granted the choice to participate either virtually or in person without penalty, and that the council be allowed to adopt a hybrid model that reflects the realities of its members and the families they represent;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that CCD75 will continue to provide public comment opportunities at every meeting and commit to holding at least two in-person meetings per year—one at the beginning and one at the end of the school year—to ensure meaningful engagement for families who prefer or require in-person interaction. The council will also offer technical assistance to parents and caregivers facing digital access barriers so they can fully participate in virtual meetings and public sessions.

Furthermore, all CCD75 members participating virtually will remain subject to the current participation requirements, including having their cameras and audio on throughout the meeting, to ensure full presence, transparency, and engagement in council business;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that CCD75 will hold regular in-person office hours for families lacking digital access, while affirming that true equity in engagement for families of the highest need means eliminating structural barriers and expanding virtual access to ensure that no parent voice is left behind.