



COMMUNITY AND CITYWIDE EDUCATION ELECTIONS

**POWERTOHEPARENTS.ORG**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Deadline Extended for Parents to Run for NYC Education Councils, But Time Still Running Out**

*Outpour of Candidate Interest Spurs Department of Education to Extend Deadline to March 19th*

The deadline for public school parents to register to run for NYC's Community and Citywide Education Councils (CECs) has been extended until March 19th. In response to an increase in parent interest in the elections, the NYC Department of Education, a slew of City nonprofits, and parent groups across the five boroughs are stepping up their vigorous efforts to recruit candidates.

"We're asking every New Yorker regardless of whether or not they currently have kids in school to pitch in to get the word out about these elections," said Jeff S. Merritt, Founder and President of Grassroots Initiative, the New York City-based nonprofit organization partnering with the DOE to help to recruit and to assist CEC candidates.

The CECs, which replaced New York City's School Boards in 2004, are parental advisory boards - one for each of the City's 32 school districts - that meet with the district superintendent each month and advise the Department of Education on issues like school zoning and instruction.

Parents can sign up online to run for the CEC in a matter of minutes at [powertotheparents.org](http://powertotheparents.org) <<http://powertotheparents.org/>> . This year, the application process has been simplified so that both first-time candidates and current CEC members will have no trouble getting their names on the ballot.

To help parents learn more about the CEC, Grassroots Initiative has released a new public service announcement (PSA). The ad can be viewed online at

[www.powertotheparents.org/info.html](http://www.powertotheparents.org/info.html). Media and community activists can also embed the PSA in their website using the code below.

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For more information about the elections or how to run for the CEC, log on to [powertotheparents.org](http://powertotheparents.org) <<http://powertotheparents.org/>> or call 1-877-NYC-VOTE.

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