

Jennifer J. Raab, President

September 15, 2020

Ms. Barbara Bowen  
61 Broadway, Suite 1500  
New York, New York 10006

Dear President Bowen,

Thank you for your letter of September 10 regarding the reopening of the Hunter College Campus Schools. Please be assured that, as we have said repeatedly, the Campus School reopening plan meets the highest health and safety standards and has been approved under the CUNY guidelines. Simply put, CUNY and Hunter College would never put the safety of our faculty, staff and students in jeopardy.

In fact, the Hunter College Campus Schools, Hunter College and CUNY have made every effort, and completed extensive work, to provide for a safe reopening of the Campus Schools. We have made available to the Campus Schools a second building, the Silberman School of Social Work to insure decreased density for classroom learning. We have diligently reduced classroom density at each location and rearranged all furniture to meet social distancing standards. We have provided clear and extensive signage indicating appropriate distancing. Hand sanitizing stations and hand washing stations are available throughout both buildings. Masks are required for all faculty, staff, visitors and students. In addition, HEPA filters have been installed in classrooms in both buildings. UV lights and MERV-13 equivalent filters have been ordered and will be installed. Tents have been rented to maximize outdoor time for faculty and students. All of these protocols and as well as other safety measures are well documented in the CUNY approved reopening plan.

In addition to the protocols described above, we have also completed a major capital upgrade and additional repairs of the HVAC system at the 94th Street building. An accredited engineering firm that was not involved in the construction work or the repairs has reviewed the HVAC work and the building's air ventilation system, measuring airflow in each room. That data was posted on the Hunter College Campus Schools website, provided to the PSC, and emailed to all members of the Campus Schools community. Based on this data, the engineering firm overseeing the project for CUNY/DASNY concluded that the 94th Street building's "system is expected to yield air quality that meets or exceeds all standards for a K-12 school. With regard to fresh air flow to the spaces addressed and repaired by this project, said spaces are ready and safe for occupancy."

The Silberman building, which will serve students in the 9th through 12 grades, is nine years old and has modern HVAC systems; your own health professional conceded in our recent call that the building was "okay/"

It is not CUNY policy or practice to allow third party inspections of its buildings. Therefore, I respectfully decline your request to bring another inspection team into the building. There is simply no reason to believe that All City, a certified engineering firm, has not provided accurate information. We stand behind their report. To our knowledge, CUNY has done a more comprehensive ventilation inspection of all the rooms at the 94th Street Campus School building than the inspections underway by the DOE of their hundreds of facilities and potential rental sites.

We look forward to completing orientation for grades K-10 this week and we are excited to start the new school year on September 21. I was pleased to see scores of 9th graders yesterday at Silberman lined up with 6 feet between them, and first graders this morning at 94th Street sitting under the tent, learning how to measure 6 feet. We are committed to providing a rich on site education to the 60% of the families who have selected the hybrid option while also serving our students studying from home. I am confident that we will do so in an environment that is safe for them and their teachers.

In light of the above, we expect teachers to be on site as scheduled by their supervisors. As always, I appreciate your concerns on behalf of the Hunter College Campus Schools. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Jennifer J. Raab