

Office of the Public Advocate of the City of New York  
Betsy Gotbaum

**Report Card**

**For:**

Joel I. Klein, Chancellor  
New York City Department of Education  
52 Chambers St.  
New York, NY 10007

Comment: "I commend the Mayor for claiming responsibility for City schools, and I strongly agree that our education system is crying out for a change. But a year has passed, and it's fair to say the reforms need reforming."

Subject	Grade	Comments
Test Scores	I	Reforms did not lead to any significant improvement; however, it may be too early to judge the effects of new curricula and teacher training methods.
Streamlining Operations		
Suspension	C+	Original reorganization resulted in backlogs, but the DOE acknowledged the problem and took steps to fix it.
Special Ed	D	The reorganization itself deserves an F, but the DOE gets credit for acknowledging the problems. It still remains to be seen if they will fix the problems.
Social Promotion	I	No final grade until next year, but the Mayor's hold-back policy already looks disappointing.
Overcrowding	F	DOE has no plans to address this crisis. The decision to divide larger schools into smaller ones only contributes to the problem.
Parent Coordinators	C	One-third are doing a good job, but the rest don't answer their phones or return calls.
Health	C+	Reforms don't address the children's health crisis. Exclusive contract with sugary Snapple, not enough gym classes and facilities, only 17% of kids using the universal breakfast program.
Communication Skills		
Expensive PR Machine	A	\$33,000 a month to a private firm.
Working with Others	F	Parents, teachers, principals, and all other stakeholders have been ignored at every turn. This disregard is compromising the success of all the reforms.
<b>Final Grade</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>Ambitions have so far not produced positive results.</b>