



May 2, 2017

Dear Families and Staff:

For students to learn and for staff to provide high quality instruction, we know they must be in a safe, comfortable learning environment. As I have traveled across the City, speaking with families at Town Halls, in schools and on the sidewalks, I've consistently heard that when classrooms are too warm, students just can't focus or learn. I listened closely, and am pleased to share that every classroom will have air conditioning by 2022. The City is dedicating \$28.75 million to purchase and install air conditioning units in all classrooms over the next five years.

Nothing should stand in the way of students receiving a high-quality education and we are focused on setting all students up for success. This initiative will deliver the resources to provide air conditioning to the 11,500 classrooms— that's 26 percent of all classrooms – that currently do not have functioning air conditioning. Work on the first 2,000 classrooms will begin this summer. Schools all across the City will be assessed individually so we can make sure we deliver.

Additionally, for schools that require electrical upgrades, the School Construction Authority's Five-Year Capital Plan includes \$50 million to fund electrical upgrades which will support the installation of air conditioning units. These electrical upgrades are already underway across the City and will continue to expand through this initiative.

As a former public school parent, I know how important this is. Funding for air conditioning has long been a challenge for schools and staff members will now be able to regulate temperatures in instructional spaces year-round. By providing students with safe, comfortable environments in classrooms, we are allowing them to focus on learning and setting them up to succeed and thrive.

If you have questions about the installation of air conditioning at your school, please contact your administrator.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill de Blasio".

Mayor
City of New York

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen Fariña".

Chancellor
Department of Education