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Sent: 10/3/2014 1:43:15 PM  
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Cc:  
Subject: Governor Jeb Bush: Mayor de Blasio Puts Special Interests Before New York City Students

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 3, 2014

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**Governor Jeb Bush: Mayor de Blasio Puts Special Interests Before New York City Students**

*City's Decision to Roll Back Accountability in Schools Jeopardizes Progress*

**Tallahassee, FL** – Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, chairman of the Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcelinEd), and Patricia Levesque, ExcelinEd's Chief Executive Officer, today released the following statements regarding New York City Mayor de Blasio's [announcement](#) <[http://excelined.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?  
u=e2be307755ae03b2828711386&id=a4994e03a6&e=beba06e75f](http://excelined.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e2be307755ae03b2828711386&id=a4994e03a6&e=beba06e75f)> this week that he will roll back accountability measures in the City's school system.

"Once again, Mayor de Blasio is putting special interests before New York City students," said Governor Bush. "Grading schools on a transparent A – F scale shines a light on the state of learning in every school. While it may not be popular among union leaders and bureaucrats who don't want to be held responsible for results, it is the right thing to do for students, parents and teachers. Under strong accountability policies, New York City has improved its quality of education and improved outcomes for students. Now is not the time to turn back the clock on that progress."

“Transparent accountability creates pressure on adults to make sure everyone is focused on measuring what matters – student learning,” said Levesque. “A-F school grading does just that. No one has to explain the difference between an A and an F. New York students, parents and teachers deserve better. No one is well served under a system of confusing descriptors that can too often conceal the true quality of education in a school, especially when struggling students are being lost or ignored “

New York City adopted A-F school grades in 2006 under the leadership of then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg and New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein. The reforms led to a substantial improvement in graduation rates and progress on the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress, commonly referred to as the Nation’s Report Card.

Currently, New York City schools earn an overall grade and an individual grade in four categories including: student progress, overall student performance, the school environment (based on attendance rates and the results of an annual survey of students, parents, and teachers) and improvement made by the lowest performing students, by English language learners and by students with disabilities. Schools also received an annual quality review, typically done by the superintendent, assessing categories like quality of instruction and teacher collaboration. The new system will contain multiple measures and rankings including: student achievement, student progress, school rankings based on survey questions about curriculum and teacher collaboration, school safety and ratings from poor to excellent will be included for students’ improvement on state English and math tests. This information will be reported in two different reports and instead of an A-F scale, school performance descriptors for parents will now be reported from “poor” to “excellent” and school classification for reports for school leaders use will now be: “Exceeding target,” “Meeting target,” “Approaching target,” and “Not meeting target.”

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