



# ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

*Helping children succeed in school*

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## **Candidates Running for Citywide Office Stake Out Their Positions on Schools**

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(New York) Advocates for Children of New York (AFC) announced the results of a new survey on education policy today. Candidates in the 2009 New York City elections for mayor, public advocate, and comptroller provided answers to questions covering a variety of controversial issues that affect local public schools.

AFC posted the complete candidate responses on its website: [www.advocatesforchildren.org](http://www.advocatesforchildren.org).

“Education is a critical factor in this election, and we voters need to know where the candidates stand,” said Kim Sweet, AFC’s Executive Director. “The results of this survey give New Yorkers important information as they prepare to cast their votes.”

The Junior Board of AFC distributed the nonpartisan surveys to every candidate for citywide office who registered with the New York City Board of Elections. Although Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s re-election campaign declined to participate, nine of the twelve mayoral candidates and five of the six public advocate hopefuls completed the questionnaires. Of the six candidates for comptroller, only two -- David Yassky and Joseph Mendola -- responded.

The survey included both multiple choice and open question formats. In response to whether they agreed or disagreed with certain statements, the candidates mostly displayed similar views. An overwhelming majority said that all residents of New York City should receive guaranteed access to prekindergarten and that class sizes should be reduced on all levels.

Almost every candidate believes that the chancellor of the Department of Education should have experience in education leadership and that the New York City Police Department should have a more limited presence in public schools. Joel Klein had no substantial education background when Mayor Bloomberg appointed him to the position seven years ago. Chancellor Klein has also received criticism for not attempting to regulate the school safety agents who report to the NYPD.

AFC is a non-profit organization with more than 37 years of experience advocating for the most vulnerable children in New York City schools. AFC’s Junior Board is a group of young professionals from diverse backgrounds who volunteer their time to further AFC’s mission. Neither AFC nor its Junior Board endorses any candidate for public office or takes any position with respect to these elections.

To view the complete responses of each candidate, go to  
<http://www.advocatesforchildren.org/reports.php>.

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