



Advocates for Children's

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**Guide to NYC  
Public Schools'**

# **Reorganization— 2003**

**What's New and Who's Who**

**September 2003 brings huge changes to New York City's public schools** – with new administrative offices, new job descriptions and—possibly—new opportunities for parents. If your head is spinning with all the changes, you are not alone. Advocates for Children has created this guide for you—to give parents and communities a basic road map to the new system.

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## The Big Picture:

Although the changes seem never ending, most fall into three themes in the Chancellor's Children First initiative.

- **Consolidating the Districts:** Perhaps the biggest change is the massive shift from 40 districts – 32 community school districts, 6 high school districts and 2 city-wide districts - to **10 education divisions**. There are no longer high school superintendencies or separate districts for failing schools – now all schools fall under 10 geographical divisions, which oversee almost all aspects of education. District 75, which provides programs for the city's most disabled students, is the exception to the rule and remains fully intact. The 32 old community school districts still exist—and are on the map—but have limited functions. **Six operational regions** have also been created to oversee many of the administrative nuts and bolts of schools, such as budgeting, transportation and school facilities. The operational regions divide up oversight over the 10 divisions.
- **Parent Involvement:** Each school now has a **Parent Coordinator** to support parent involvement and help individual parents. Each division also comes equipped with **Parent Support Teams** housed at the divisions' 13 new **Learning Support Centers**, which are designed to give parents better access to the help they need.

- **Focus on Instruction:** The Chancellor has charged the ten new **Regional Superintendents** to focus on improving instruction and has hired an army of new employees to help them do exactly that, including 100 **Local Instruction Supervisors** and a math and reading coach for every school. Most schools will also be following a new “uniform curricula” for reading and math in the elementary and middle school grades.

## Other Changes:

- **English Language Learners:** Reforms for English Language Learners – over 15% of students - have been put in place to improve instruction, including the hiring of 107 ELL Instructional Support Specialists.
- **Special Education:** The Department has new plans for the Special Education system. See page 8 for the Department's diagram of those changes.
- **School Governance:** The Community School Boards, which once governed district schools, are now gone, replaced by the mostly advisory **Community District Education Councils**.

# What's New and Who's Who –



	At a Glance
At the <b>School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Coordinators</li> <li>• Math and Reading Coaches</li> </ul>
At the <b>District</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes for District Superintendent</li> <li>• Parent Support Officer</li> <li>• Community District Education Councils</li> </ul>
At the <b>Regions or Divisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 Instruction Divisions or Regions</li> <li>• Regional Superintendents, Local Instruction Superintendents and Instructional Support Specialists</li> <li>• 13 Learning Support Centers</li> <li>• Six Regional Operations Centers</li> </ul>
<b>Special Populations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 107 Instructional Support Specialists for English Language Learners</li> <li>• Changes in the Special Education hierarchy</li> </ul>

## At the school...



### Parent Coordinator

The new parent coordinator in your child's school is responsible for helping address parent concerns and supporting parent involvement in the schools. The parent coordinators report to the principals and to the Parent Support Team in the Learning Support Centers.



### Math and Reading Coaches

Most schools have a reading coach and a math coach to train teachers on the best ways to teach reading and math and provide support to the teachers when they need it.

## At the district...

*Changed*

### Superintendent and District Office

In theory, the district superintendent still has the same duties he used to, such as hiring and evaluating principals; hiring, promoting, and dismissing all school employees; approving and modifying the school budget; and making decisions on matters relating to the instruction of students. However, because each superintendent now has a staff of two, it's not likely he will be able to perform these responsibilities in the way she did before. According to the chancellor's new plan, the "division superintendent" have the authority to oversee all instructional matters. Each district superintendent doubles as a local instructional supervisor.

*NEW*

### Parent Support Officer

Each district will have one Parent Support Officer to assist parents in the district. This person hopefully will be a knowledgeable advisor who can help you navigate the schools. But be aware that if you need to take care of any paperwork, he will likely send you over to the Learning Support Center.

*NEW*

### Community District Education Councils

The Community District Education Councils replace the old community school boards. Councils have twelve members that – on paper – oversee the schools in the community district. Because, however, the chancellor has given so much authority to the new divisions, it is an open question how much these councils will be able to impact on what happens in the schools. Members will be elected by PTA officers in October 2003 and begin their two-year term in December. Parent council holds public meetings each month with the superintendent.

# What's New and Who's Who –

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## At the 10 Instructional Divisions or Regions...

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### Learning Support Centers

Each division has at least one Learning Support Center – which house the regional superintendent, student support staff and a team of “parent support officers.” The staff members in the parent support office are charged with helping parents with any school-related questions.

### Regional Superintendent

Each regional superintendent is responsible for putting the new curriculum in effect, providing support to teachers and overseeing all aspects of instruction in their region. The regional superintendents each oversee ten local instructional supervisors.

### Local Instructional Supervisors

Each division has ten local instructional supervisors (LIS) who each oversee instruction in twelve or so schools. They support the principals in each of their assigned schools and evaluate how well each principal is doing his job. 32 LIS's double as district superintendents (see page 5). The local instruction supervisors can be found in the learning support centers.

### Instructional Support Specialists

The instructional support specialists are being hired to train classroom teachers on methods to teach English Language Learners, struggling students, and students with disabilities and consult with teachers needing assistance with individual children. There are two instructional support specialists assigned to each local instructional supervisor.

ALL NEW

### Parent Support Coordinator Team Leader

This person supervises the parent support staff at each regional learning support center. If you cannot get the answers you need from the regular staff, this is the person to talk to.

### Regional Director of Student Placement, Youth and Family Support Services:

This (hopefully energetic) person oversees almost every aspect of the schools outside of instruction, including: school safety, School Leadership Teams, community outreach, attendance, student discipline and hearings, 504 issues, guidance, health and substance abuse, NCLB appeals, zoning and student placement.

## ... and the 6 Regional Operation Centers

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### Regional Operation Centers (ROCs)

The new operation centers and their directors are charged with handling much of the back-end work of the schools – from overseeing school budgets, to providing food, custodial and transportation services. There are six of these centers, which are housed in the learning support centers. Each of the 10 divisions also has a Regional Operations Deputy Director to act as liaison to the operation centers.



# Special Populations

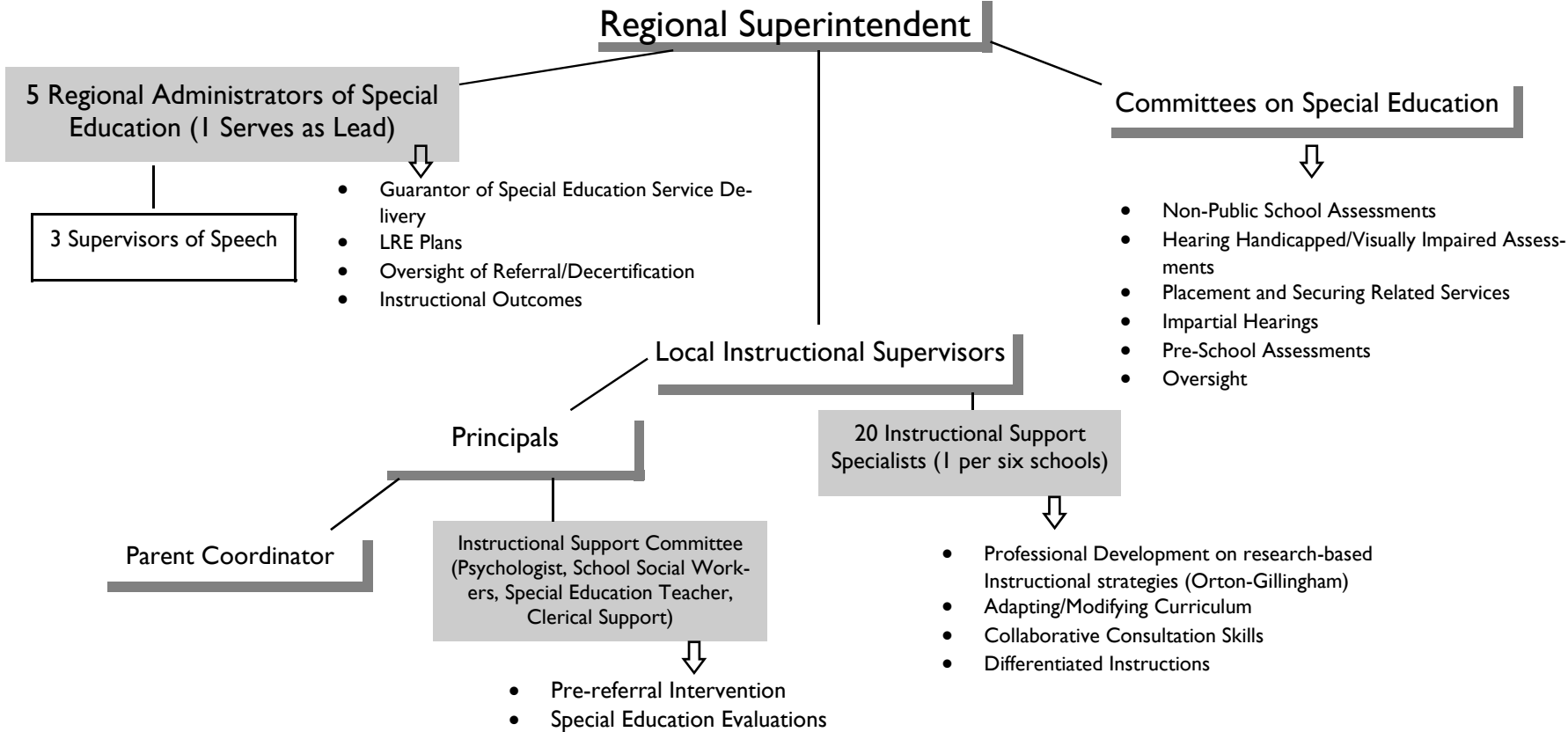
## For English Language Learners

**English Language Learner Instructional Support Specialists:** There are 107 new ELL Instructional Support Specialists who each work with approximately six schools. They are there to support teachers in ELL classrooms and to report on the quality of education for ELLs.

### Special Education

The Department of Education has planned changes within the Special Education system. This diagram is a verbatim reproduction of a diagram produced by the Department of Education.

## NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION STRUCTURE IN LEARNING DIVISION



## Who's there to help in the schools and divisions

When problems arise, there are a number of people who are charged with helping parents or overseeing the schools. Depending upon whether the problem concerns an individual child's needs, instruction in the school or problems with school operations, there are different people who should help you out. Below are lists of people who, according to DOE documents, are responsible for handling different problems in the schools.

### Student Needs—General Education

Parent Coordinator <i>P</i>	Principal	Learning Support Center—Parent Support Team <i>P</i>	Learning Support Center—Director of Youth and Family Support Services
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### Instruction—General Education

Parent Coordinator <i>P</i>	Principal	Local Instructional Supervisor	Division Superintendent
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### Operations—Facilities, supplies, transportation

Parent Coordinator <i>P</i>	Principal	Learning Support Center—Regional Operations Deputy Director	Regional Operations Center Director
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*P* = Staff Specifically Charged with Helping Parents

## The Top Folk at Central

The Chancellor also has deputies in charge of overseeing all aspects of the schools.

The Office of Teaching and Learning  
Deputy Chancellor Diana Lam  
212 374-5115.

Office of Parent and Community Engagement  
Senior Counselor Michele Cahill  
212-374-5159.

Office of Youth Development and School-Community Services  
Senior Executive Lester Young  
212-374-0266

School Safety and Planning  
Chief Executive Benjamin B. Tucker  
212 374-3400

Office of School Facilities  
Acting Chief Executive James Lonergan  
718 391-6555

Food and Transportation Services  
Executive Director Marty Oestreicher  
718 729-6100

Division of Zoning and Office of Student Placement  
Executive Director John Lee  
212 374 2363

## Where to Find Everyone

**Learning Support Centers:** Where you'll also find Division Superintendents, Local Instructional Superintendents, Parent Support Teams and Directors of Student Support Services.

Region	Superintendent	Districts	Learning Support Center	Telephone #
1	Irma Zardoya	9, 10	1 Fordham Plaza, Bronx, 10458	718-741-7090
2	Laura Rodriguez	8, 11, 12	1230 Zerega Avenue, Bronx, 10462	718-828-2440
3	Judith Chin	25, 26, 28, 29	30-48 Linden Place, Flushing, 11354 90-27 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, 11434	718-281-7575 718-557-2600
4	Reyes Irizarry	24, 30, 32	28-11 Queens Plaza North LIC, 11101	718-391-8300
5	Kathleen Cashin	19, 23, 27	82-01 Rockaway Blvd. Ozone Park, 11416 1655 St. Mark's Ave., Brooklyn, 11233	718-642-5800 718-922-4960
6	Gloria Buckery	17, 18, 22	5619 Flatlands Avenue, Brooklyn, 11234	718-968-6100
7	Michelle Fratti	20, 21, 31	715 Ocean Terrace, Staten Island, 10301 415 89 <sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, 11209	718-556-8350 718-759-4900
8	Carmen Farina	13, 14, 15, 16	131 Livingston Street Brooklyn, 11201	718-935-3900
9	Peter Heaney	1, 2, 4, 7	333 7th Avenue, 28th St., Manhattan, 10001	212-356-7500
10	Lucille Swarns	3, 5, 6	4360 Broadway, Manhattan, 10033	917-521-3700

For a full listing of the **Local Instructional Supervisors**, see the DOE's website [www.nycenet.edu](http://www.nycenet.edu).

## Committees on Special Education – Offices and Chairpersons

Region	Chairperson	Districts	Address	Telephone #
1	Sileni Nazario	9, 10	5500 Broadway, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl. Bronx, 10463	718 584-8002, Ext. 3002
2	Margaret Curcio	8, 11, 12	3450 E. Tremont Ave., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl. Bronx, 10465	718 794-7455
3	Maura Hersch	25, 26, 28, 29	64-45 218 <sup>th</sup> Street @ PS 46 Bayside, 11364	718 281-3520
4	Gail Kastenholz	24, 30, 32	28-11 Queens Plaza North LIC, 11101	718 533-2250 or 718 391-8410
5	Sherri Shulman	19, 23, 27	82-01 Rockaway Blvd. Ozone Park, 11416	718 642-5710
6	Cheryle Knobel	17, 18, 22	8814 Foster Ave. Brooklyn, 11236	718 649-7101, Ext. 202
7	Claire Donnellan	20, 21, 31	465A New Dorp Lane Staten Island, 10306	718 668-6426
8	Arthur Sadoff	13, 14, 15, 16	131 Livingston Street Brooklyn, 11201	718 384-7600, Ext. 525
9	Lorraine Masten	1, 2, 4, 7	22 East 28 <sup>th</sup> Street New York, 10016	917 256-4639
10	Carole Kraus	3, 5, 6	243 West 61 <sup>st</sup> Street, New York, 10023	212 245-3541

## Regional Administrators of Special Education

Re-gion	Name	Districts	Address	Telephone #
1	Ellen Newman	9, 10	1 Fordham Plaza Bronx, 10458	718 741-2743
2	Bernice Moro-Reyes	8, 11, 12	1230 Zerega Avenue Bronx, 10462	718 828-3602
3	Leonard Sterman	25, 26, 28, 29	30-48 Linden Place, Rm. 303 Flushing, 11354	718 281-7506
4	Nancy Needle	24, 30, 32	28-11 Queens Plaza North LIC, 11101	718 391-8401
5	Francis LoFaso	19, 23, 27	82-01 Rockaway Blvd. Ozone Park, 11416	718 642-5753
6	Michael Gersch	17, 18, 22	5619 Flatlands Avenue Brooklyn, 11234	718 968-6106
7	Rob J., Rosenberg	20, 21, 31	715 Ocean Terrace, Bldg. A Staten Island, 10301	718 420-5706
8	Steve Rosen	13, 14, 15, 16	131 Livingston Street, Rm. 411 Brooklyn, 11201	718 935-3959
9	Sarita Rein	1, 2, 4, 7	22 East 28 <sup>th</sup> Street, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor New York, 10016	917 256-4639
10	John Mulligan	3, 5, 6	4360 Broadway New York, 10033	917 521-3711

## Regional Operations Center Directors

Regional Operation Center Director	Divisions Covered...	Address	Telephone #
Vincent Clark	1 and 2	1 Fordham Plaza, Bronx, 10458	718 741-7070
Marlene Siegel	3	30-48 Linden Place, Flushing, 11354	718 281-7650
Sandy Brawer	4 and 5	28-11 Queens Plaza N, LIC 11101	718 391-8222
Espi Semetis	6 and 7	715 Ocean Ter- race, Staten Island, 10301	718 556-8300
Donna Rey	8	131 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, 11201	718 935-3400
Jerry Schondorf	9 and 10	333 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Manhattan, 10001	212 356-3700



Still have more questions? Call Advocates for Children during our helpline hours from 10-1 Tuesday or Thursday at 212 947-9779, or sign up for our e-mail updates by logging on to [www.insideschools.org](http://www.insideschools.org).