

August 28, 2018

Dr. Linda P. Chen
Chief Academic Officer
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)

Dear Dr. Chen:

First, please accept my congratulations on your appointment to this vitally important position. I, and my team at Staten Island Borough Hall, look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship with you.

I am writing to request that we meet to discuss the creation of a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) school on Staten Island. As you know, seven such schools exist in New York City, none of which are in our borough. In a prior meeting, Chancellor Carranza was very receptive to our proposal, but asked us to wait for the appointment of a Chief Academic Officer, and upon that announcement work with that person to set up a taskforce in order to bring this to fruition. That is why I'm writing to you now.

Funding for such a school is available through New York State P-TECH partnership awards. Governor Cuomo has allocated \$10 million in the state's budget for another round of P-TECH schools, and an RFP will likely be released this fall. We believe we can present an extremely credible proposal.

We have already established a relationship with Mr. Stanley Litow, who has indicated that IBM would be ready and willing to collaborate and/or partner with us to establish a P-TECH school on Staten Island. Mr. Litow has also expressed his desire to participate in any meetings that result from this request.

As you know, P-TECH public-private educational partnership schools are for grades 9 through 14, culminating in a no-cost Associates Degree for students. In an economy plagued by low-paying or dead-end jobs, schools such as these give some of our neediest students a very real pipeline to meaningful post-secondary school employment. This has value beyond measure to our city and our society.

Why, then, have Staten Island students been excluded from this unique opportunity? I believe that together we can right this wrong.

I'm confident you will agree that now is the time to explore the efficacy of establishing such a school on Staten Island, and when you get settled into your new position I hope to hear from you regarding your willingness to meet and discuss moving forward with this project.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

