

For Immediate Release

February 17, 2010

Emergency Placement For High School Students from Haiti

Newcomer Haitian students are in need of urgent placement in the New York City school system.

Brooklyn, New York, February 17 — Haitian parents, high school students, community-based organizations and education rights advocates gather to express deep concerns about the lack of adequate services available to Haitian English Language Learners (ELL's) at the high school level of the New York City school system. Brooklyn is home to more than 200,000 Haitian immigrants. Dozens of families in New York's Haitian community have already received school-aged relatives fleeing Haiti's earthquake, and more are expected.

- Haitian English Language Learner (ELL) students at Samuel J. Tilden High School in Brooklyn are in danger of being pushed out of school due to their school closing in June 2010, with no future plans to complete their High School education.
- Youth survivors of the deadly earthquake in Haiti who are relocated to New York, are having to wait too long to be placed into schools.
- With the shortage of adequate transition programs for immigrant youth, these survivors who have had their schooling interrupted, are more likely to fall through the cracks and become drop-outs.

When Tilden High School closes, 20-30 students will be in limbo. These students enter high school already at a disadvantage because they need English language preparation and literacy support. They have been racing to pass required Regents exams before they age out. These students are owed an education, and the opportunity to finish, and we are deeply concerned that the DOE has not yet presented them with any option.

Press Conference

When: Thursday February 18, 2010 @ 10:30 am

Location: FLANBWAYAN Haitian Literacy Project in Brooklyn

208 Parkside Ave. 2nd Fl (between Flatbush and Ocean Ave.)

Q Train to Parkside Avenue