

Ms. Michelle Ciulla Lipkin  
Co-Chair Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council  
Statement at City Council Hearing September 30, 2013

**RE: Res. No. 1768 - Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign, A.6059/S. 4284, legislation that would protect student privacy by prohibiting the release of personally identifiable student information without consent.**

My statement will be brief because this issue is simple. We must protect student privacy by prohibiting the release of personally identifiable student information without consent.

I am here today as a parent. I am here to tell you that parents are appalled that their child's privacy is being violated and private information is being collected without their knowledge. You should see the look on their faces when they hear about this issue. Stunned and disgusted are the words I would use.

That the NY State Education Department is planning to share the most private, confidential data all NYS public school students with a corporation called inBloom Inc. is criminal. As a parent, I should be asked for consent for my child's information. It should not be given out without my permission.

As a parent, I have to sign a permission slip for my child to go out on a field trip. I have to give permission for my address to be put in the school directory. I have to log in with a secure password to get my own child's test scores. There are checkpoints in place to keep our children safe. Why then would we allow our State Education department to deal with this issue of privacy and security in such a careless manner?

Parents should not have to worry about personal information about their child being shared with an outside, unrelated company with questionable motives. As a parent, I want the choice of whether or not my child's information is shared. That is a decision that I should be making.

I have the utmost respect for the members of the City Council and understand your deep commitment to our children. I know you agree with me: schools should be a safe haven for children in every way. I urge you to do the right thing today. Protect our children and give parents their power back when it comes to their children's privacy.

Thank you.