

# WITHIN OUR REACH

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### An agenda for ensuring all New York students are prepared for college, careers, and active citizenship

In schools across New York State, students—particularly students of color and those who are low-income—are too often denied opportunities to experience rigorous instruction across a robust set of course offerings that will prepare them for college, careers, and civic life.

It does not have to be this way. A better future is within our reach.

#### FINDINGS

1

**Students of color are under-represented across the board in gatekeeper courses that prepare students for college and career opportunities**

Latino, Black, and American Indian students are under-represented in a wide range of important gatekeeper and advanced courses, including Algebra I and Earth Science in middle school, Calculus, Physics, Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB), Computer Science, Advanced Foreign Language, and Music.

2

**Latino and Black students are less likely than their White peers to attend schools where gatekeeper college- and career-prep courses are offered.**

For example, 41,451 Latino and Black 7th and 8th graders—representing 30 percent of Latino students

and 34 percent of Black students—attend middle schools that do not offer Algebra I, more than three times the rate of their White peers.

3

**Even in schools that offer gatekeeper college- and career-prep courses, Latino and Black students are under-enrolled in these courses.**

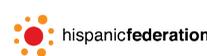
In schools that offer gatekeeper courses, Latino and Black students are still less likely than their White peers to be enrolled. For example, in high schools that offer Calculus, Latino and Black students represent 34 percent of all students but only 19 percent of students enrolled in Calculus. In high-need school districts that offer gatekeeper courses, there are on average fewer total seats available per school than in schools in low-need school districts that offer the same courses.

4

**Students of color are disproportionately enrolled in schools with no or too few school counselors, who could help them navigate course enrollment to prepare for college and careers.**

In middle school, Latino and Black students are twice as likely as their White peers to attend a school without a single school counselor. By high school, a far greater problem is having far too few school counselors to serve the student body.

#### THE NEW YORK EQUITY COALITION



# A CALL TO ACTION

## THE 5X25 COMMITMENT

Across New York State today, our education system denies students of color access to rigorous instruction in a range of courses that will prepare them for success in college, careers, and civic life.

But it does not have to be this way.

Better, more equitable outcomes—for our society and our economy—are within our reach.

We call on New York's leaders to fulfill 5 Commitments to every student in the Graduating Class of 2025—a 5x25 agenda for success starting with the cohort of students who are entering sixth grade in fall 2018.

### COMMITMENT 1

**All students, families, and educators will have accurate and timely information, support, and help to access a rich and robust course experience in their school**

#### HOW

Leverage the state's new accountability system to enhance transparency and implement school improvement strategies that support equitable access to rigorous courses

### COMMITMENT 2

**All students and families will have the information and support to pursue rigorous college- and career-prep pathways**

#### HOW

Require that families receive better information and expand access to school counselors and other resources

### COMMITMENT 3

**Every student will receive rich and rigorous instruction that prepares them for success after high school graduation**

#### HOW

Establish a default college- and career-prep course sequence that all students are automatically enrolled in, backed by high expectations and support for educators and students

### COMMITMENT 4

**Every student will be able to earn college credit and/or participate in work-based learning opportunities before they graduate from high school**

#### HOW

Expand access to AP, IB, dual enrollment courses, proven programs like P-TECH, and employer-based internships and other connections to colleges and employers

### COMMITMENT 5

**High school graduation requirements will match modern-day expectations for college, career, and civic readiness**

#### HOW

Update New York's course requirements for high school graduation, including by adding a fourth year of math

**VISIT [EquityinEdNY.org](http://EquityinEdNY.org) to learn more and see our proposed solution: The 5x25 Commitment to New York.**