



COMPTROLLER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
1 CENTRE STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-2341  
(212) 669-3500

WILLIAM C. THOMPSON, JR.  
COMPTROLLER

June 30, 2009

Mr. Joel I. Klein  
Chancellor  
New York City Department of Education  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chancellor Klein:

I write to urge that your office consider including two important Muslim holidays in the New York City school calendar and closing City schools in observance of these religious holidays.

As you are likely aware, Muslims represent one of our fastest growing communities and comprise more than 12 percent of the City's public school students.

Indeed, many parents and advocates continue to express legitimate concern regarding the City's failure to designate two of the holiest days in the Muslim calendar, Eid Ul-Fitr and Eid Ul-Adha, as school holidays.

Although I am mindful that State legislation mandating the recognition of these holidays is pending in Albany, and that the City Council is considering a similar measure, I note that the Department of Education can, as a matter of policy, incorporate these Muslim holidays into the school calendar on its own.

Our City and our schools must remain sensitive to the needs of New Yorkers. To ignore these demands, and the City's changing demographics, is to ignore our obligation to the City's diverse communities.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will C. Thompson, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

William C. Thompson, Jr.