

April 13, 2016

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

I am writing to you today on behalf of parents in my community and across New York City. We are concerned that ineffective teachers from the ATR pool are being assigned to our children's classrooms. We want information about whether ineffective teachers have been placed in schools, and where specifically they have been placed.

Here's the fact of the matter for parents whose children attend schools in low-income neighborhoods across the city: we don't know from year-to-year if a quality teacher will be leading the class. Knowing that ATR teachers who no principal wanted or who weren't interested in applying for a job could be in our children's classrooms is distressing.

Shortly after you became Mayor, you pledged to shrink the ATR pool without resorting to the forced placement of teachers. We know that a significant number of ATR teachers are ineffective – but your administration has not released any information about where those teachers have been assigned.

My daughter attended three separate elementary schools in Brooklyn – I had to keep moving her because the quality of the teaching in the schools was so poor. Another StudentsFirstNY parent member Ms. Gillis was telling me about how her son had two teachers leave mid-year and she has no idea where the replacements are coming from. StudentsFirstNY filed a freedom of information request on our behalf, but it's been five months and we still don't know what's going on.

Parents in our community deserve to know what's happening with teachers in the ATR pool. The DOE is a government agency – you are obligated to be transparent about your plans.

As a fellow parent I hope you can understand just how frustrated I am with this issue. I hope you will heed our concerns and send us the information we've requested.

Camille Artemus
Public School Parent
Brooklyn, NY