Reversing Bloomberg Reforms, City Will Reissue Tens of Thousands of Teacher Parking Placards

STREETS BLOG NYC - Brad Aaron

Get ready for a lot more car traffic and illegal parking around New York City schools. Tens of thousands of new parking placards will soon be in circulation.

Under the terms of arbitration between the city and the United Federation of Teachers, the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, and DC 37 — unions that represent teachers, administrators, and other school staff — the Department of Education will soon hand out parking placards to any school employee who has a car and requests one, reversing reforms instituted during the Bloomberg administration.

The arbitration stemmed from a 2009 lawsuit filed by CSA, the principals union, a DOE spokesperson told Streetsblog.

The lawsuit was filed after then-mayor Michael Bloomberg reduced placards issued by DOE from 63,000 to around 11,000, aligning the number of placards with the number on-street parking spots reserved for schools.

The DOE cuts were part of a broader effort to reform a placard system plagued by abuse. Placards do not confer the right to park anywhere with impunity, but placard holders tend to treat them as a carte blanche, knowing that enforcement agents will typically avoid ticketing any vehicle that has one.

Like placards issued to NYPD, FDNY, and other city personnel, the DOE’s placards were often used to park illegally — in crosswalks, at bus stops, by fire hydrants — prompting the Bloomberg-era reforms.

UFT eventually accepted the reduction in placards — which, it should be noted, did not affect the 15,000 off-street parking spaces reserved for schools citywide. But the CSA sought and won an arbitration ruling that said the placards should be reinstated to comply with the union’s contract with the city. The Bloomberg administration did not reissue the placards, and the CSA sued the city, the Education Department, and Bloomberg.

“Following litigation and negotiations, we are complying with the decision of the administrative law judge,” said the DOE spokesperson via email. The extent to which the city’s hand was forced is not yet clear. (Streetsblog asked DOE and City Hall for the text of the ruling. We will update the story when we receive a response.)

Now the placard floodgates are about to reopen. Currently, a school with, say, 10 on-street parking spots has 10 placards, which are available to 10 teachers and other staff members on any given day. (The UFT agreement with the city gave school principals and union chapter
leaders, who are also teachers, discretion as to how placards are assigned. Schools may, for instance, allocate permits on a rotating basis, or by lottery.) Soon, that same school could have any number of employees competing for those 10 spots, since the number of on-street spaces allocated per school will not increase.

“I have news that many UFT members will welcome,” UFT President Michael Mulgrew wrote in a May 9 member email. “Every school employee who has a car will receive a Department of Education-issued parking permit, and effective May 18 the school’s on-street parking spots will become available on a first-come, first-served basis.”

Unlike before, new placards will confer parking privileges only at the school a teacher works for. In practice, however, that’s not enough to curb misuse, since government employees with placards tend to use them whether or not they have a legal space to park. Once the designated spots fill up, placard holders can then use their perk to park in nearby no-standing zones, crosswalks, or other turf that should be off-limits, secure in the knowledge they won’t get a ticket.

Tens of thousands of new placards will mean more traffic near schools and incentivize driving over transit. Teachers, administrators, and other school staff who don’t drive to work, meanwhile, will apparently receive no commensurate benefit.

Explaining why the union went along with the Bloomberg cuts, then-UFT president Randi Weingarten told the Times: “Anybody who wanted a parking permit got a parking permit, and it didn’t mean there was a spot to go with it, and there was huge frustration.” This is the system DOE is returning to.
New York City will soon be issuing thousands of new parking permits to the city’s education staff, heightening fears among transit advocates that the move will spur a congestion nightmare.

Every school employee at the Department of Education who owns a car will be eligible to receive an agency-issued parking permit, according to the United Federation of Teachers union. Michael Mulgrew, UFT president, announced the news this week in an email to members.

The new placard process, which will not increase the number of on-street parking spaces for DOE staff, is the result of arbitration and negotiation between the city and respective unions stemming from a 2009 lawsuit filed by the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators principals union, according to a DOE spokeswoman.

It’s a reversal of elements of former Mayor Michael Bloomerg’s crusade against parking perks, which in 2008 resulted in a significant reduction of DOE placards, from about 63,000 to 11,000, and a new permitting process.

The UFT did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Paul Steely White, the executive director at Transportation Alternatives, believes that issuing tens of thousands of new parking placards without increasing the number of parking spaces, or enforcement, will create a traffic headache around schools.

“This is the floodgates reopening,” White said. “We fought this battle ten years ago … the real issue was that people were using legitimate placards to park illegally in crosswalks, in front of hydrants, and really just creating major safety hazards around schools.”

The policy, which takes effect May 18, will increase the number of placards and change the issuing process. Currently, placards are distributed to DOE schools. And each school is issued the same number of placards as on-street parking spaces. Each space is currently available on a first-come, first-served basis and staff can’t leave with school placards.

The new process will give DOE workers their own individual placards, with a few exceptions. That worries Manhattan Councilman Daniel Garodnick, who has sponsored legislation that aims to overhaul the city’s placard permitting process and cut back on the number of fraudulent placards on city streets, a widely acknowledged problem.

“I’m concerned about any growth in the number of parking placards because there are too many already,” Garodnick said in a statement. “I’d rather spend our energies on improving
mass transit so that people don’t have to drive to work.”

In New York, where elected officials have complained about city workers getting a free pass for parking with as little as a “traffic agent uniform wrapped up and put in the windshield,” as one City Council member put it recently, White said the DOE placard increase must be met with aggressive enforcement.

“This will bring a torrent of new traffic, a torrent of new driving by incentivizing people to drive to work,” White said. “It’s incumbent upon the de Blasio administration to step up enforcement. ... Enforcement agents must be empowered to do their job.”

The mayor’s office didn’t address the question of increased enforcement. In a statement, mayoral spokeswoman Freddi Goldstein said the city encourages school staff to “take full advantage of public transportation options.”

“For those who prefer to drive, the same number of spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis,” she added.
Teachers, school employees to all get parking permits, city says
SI ADVANCE - Diane Lore
http://www.silive.com/news/2017/05/teachers_school_employees_to_a.html#incart_river_index

Parking procedures for city teachers and school employees are about to change.

Every teacher and school employee who has a car will receive a Department of Education-issued parking permit, and effective May 18, each school's on-street parking spots will become available on a first-come, first-served basis.

A school employee's DOE-issued permit will indicate the employee's school and the specific on-street parking locations that the employee may use. The permit will not be valid outside any other school.

The number of parking slots allotted for each school and the times when they are reserved for school employees will not change. The DOE is issuing the permits, but the city Department of Transportation will continue to oversee where school employees can park on the street.

There are concerns that the new permit system will bring an increase in morning traffic around some schools and lead to teachers competing with each other for limited spots available, as well as clashing with parents dropping off children, who often double-park in front of the school.

Details of the new arrangement were announced this week on the UFT website and in an e-mail to members from UFT President Michael Mulgrew.

According to the DOE, the new permit process is the result of arbitration and negotiation between the city and unions stemming from a 2009 lawsuit filed by the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, principals' union.

The new policy reverses a decade-old Bloomerg administration crackdown on parking perks, which in 2008 resulted in a significant reduction of DOE permits from about 63,000 to 11,000.
De Blasio grants thousands of parking permits to DOE workers
NY POST - Carl Campanile, Selim Algar
http://nypost.com/2017/05/12/de-blasio-grants-thousands-of-parking-permits-to-doe-workers/

The de Blasio administration is reissuing tens of thousands of parking permits to city education workers, rolling back reforms made by former Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Now most all Department of Education employees will receive the agency-issued permits, even though the number of placards will far exceed the number of on-street parking spots reserved for schools.

“Every school employee who has a car will receive a Department of Education-issued parking permit, and effective May 18 the school’s on-street parking spots will become available on a first-come, first-served basis,” Teachers-union President Mike Mulgrew wrote to members in an email.

“The number of parking slots allotted for each school and the times when they are reserved for school employees will not change,” he added.

The new policy stems from a lawsuit that was filed by the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators after Bloomberg slashed the number of placards from around 63,000 to 11,000 in 2008. Bloomberg cracked down on the permits so the number of placards and parking spots available at schools would be roughly the same.

The principals union said in a post on its website earlier this week that the city decided to give permits to teachers all on its own.

“The city is issuing the permits as a result of a legal decision and negotiations between unions, the DOE and the city of New York,” the post says. “CSA litigated and won the permits but the city decided on its own to grant permits to teachers as well.”
Post is live:

https://medium.com/@NYCMayorsOffice/the-facts-on-parking-for-school-staff-ae293607aed5

Sent from my iPhone

On May 13, 2017, at 6:15 PM, Casca, Michael <MCasca@cityhall.nyc.gov> wrote:

On May 13, 2017, at 5:42 PM, Robert Linn (OLR) <rlinn@olr.nyc.gov> wrote:

+ Larry Becker

From: Shorris, Anthony [ASHorris@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2017 5:36 PM
To: Devora Kaye
Cc: Robert Linn (OLR); Casca, Michael; Ramirez Ursulina; Bennett, Rob; Lauter, Rachel; Goldmark, Karin; Hagelgans, Andrea; Phillips, Eric; Mahen Gunaratna; Goldstein, Freddi; O'Brien, Kevin; Wolfe, Emma; Fink, Avi; Wallack Josh; Brennan, Tom; Lott, Alyssa; Jackson, Anthony; Renee Campion (OLR)
Subject: Re: NY Post--Parking passes

Some slight revisions.

The Facts on Parking for School Staff
Chancellor Carmen Farina

All New Yorkers must be able to commute safely to and from their place of employment. For New York City educators, there is a change starting next week regarding access to parking permits. First and foremost, we encourage all New Yorkers, including school-based staff, to take full advantage of public transportation options that are available.

Starting Thursday, May 18, the DOE will issue parking permits to teachers, school staff and principals who request them. This change is a result of arbitration and court proceedings brought against the
last administration that held that they had illegally unilaterally changed employee rights to parking permits without collective bargaining.

It’s essential to understand that there will be no new parking spots allocated for any school staff. Each school community still has the same number of spots as they had in the past. The distribution and use of permits will be closely tracked to ensure they are being used correctly and that they do not interrupt communities surrounding schools.

To be eligible to receive a permit, school-based staff must be a member of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA), United Federation of Teachers (UFT) or DC 37 and have a valid automobile registration and driver’s license.

A few reminders for school staff when determining whether to use a parking permit:

1. No additional parking spots have been allocated to schools. However, there are now more educators with parking passes and spots are available on a first come, first served basis. Reminder that taking public transportation is highly encouraged.
2. Parking spots are site-specific and can only be used at the school where the staff member works. These are non-transferable.
3. While many schools are located in communities with low demand for daytime parking, we will be vigilant against fraud and quickly address any concerns across the Department of Education, New York Police Department, and the Department of Transportation.

We recognize concerns community members may have on how the increased number of parking permits could impact them. Please rest assured that this process will be closely monitored and regulated.

We encourage all New Yorkers who are commuting -- whether to school or to other employment -- to use public transportation. By working together, we will continue to ensure safe communities and deliver for students and families and setting all young New Yorkers on a path to success.

Anthony E. Shorris
First Deputy Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007
212-788-3191

On May 13, 2017, at 5:28 PM, Kaye Devora
<DKaye6@schools.nyc.gov> wrote:

[Text is not legible due to distortion and blurriness.]
Sir,

https://medium.com/@NYCMayorsOffice/the-facts-on-parking-for-school-staff-ae293607aed5

From: B <BCCD@cityhall.nyc.gov>
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2017 7:36:58 PM
To: Kaye Devora; Ramirez Ursulina
Cc: Shorris, Anthony; KGoldmark@cityhall.nyc.gov; Hagelgans, Andrea; Linn, Robert (OLR); Casca, Michael; Phillips, Eric; Gunaratna, Mahen; Goldstein, Freddi; O'Brien, Kevin; Wolfe, Emma; Fink, Avi; Lauter, Rachel; Wallack Josh
Subject: Re: NY Post--Parking passes

Mayor,
Below is the Medium post that is up on parking permits and we've also pushed on social media.

Thanks,
Devora

https://medium.com/@NYCMayorsOffice/the-facts-on-parking-for-school-staff-ae293607aed5

The Facts on Parking for School Staff
by Carmen Fariña, Chancellor, New York City Department of Education
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From: B <BCCD@cityhall.nyc.gov>
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2017 1:13:40 PM
To: Ramirez Ursulina
Cc: Shorris, Anthony; KGoldmark@cityhall.nyc.gov; Kaye Devora; Hagelgans, Andrea; Linn, Robert (OLR); Casca, Michael; Phillips, Eric; Gunaratna, Mahen; Goldstein, Freddi; O'Brien, Kevin; Wolfe, Emma; Fink, Avi; Lauter, Rachel; Wallack Josh
Subject: Re: NY Post--Parking passes
From: Ramirez Ursulina  
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2017 12:14 PM  
To: B  
Cc: Shorris, Anthony; Goldmark, Karin; Devora Kaye; Hagelgans, Andrea; Linn, Robert (OLR)  
Subject: Re: NY Post--Parking passes
Sir,

From: Ramirez Ursulina  
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2017 11:22 AM  
To: B  
Cc: Shorris, Anthony; Goldmark, Karin; Devora Kaye; Hagelgans, Andrea  
Subject: NY Post--Parking passes

From: B  
Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2017 11:28 AM  
To: Ramirez Ursulina  
Cc: Shorris, Anthony; KGoldmark@cityhall.nyc.gov; Kaye Devora; Hagelgans, Andrea  
Subject: Re: NY Post--Parking passes
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
By Eliza Shapiro, Conor Skelding and Keshia Clukey | 05/15/2017 10:00 AM EDT

**FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT UPCOMING SCHOOL VOTES — POLITICO**

**New York’s Keshia Clukey:** Voters statewide will head to polling places on Tuesday to decide the fate of the 2017-18 budgets for 669 school districts. "It's a pretty status-quo year in terms of budget votes with less voter turnout, fewer overrides and very few controversies," said Michael Borges, executive director of the New York State Association of School Business Officials. And with fewer overrides, a high pass rate can be expected, he said. The budgets of the Big 5 city school districts — Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers, and New York City — are included in municipal fiscal plans therefore are not up for vote. School board seats also are up for election throughout the state. There are approximately 1,500 school board seats up for election this year, said David Albert, New York State School Boards Association communications director. ...

**This year district budgets** on average are expected to increase spending by 2.31 percent, with an average property tax levy increase of 1.69 percent, according a school business officials report. ... A dozen districts are attempting to get 60 percent of voter approval, a super-majority, to override the tax cap. Last year thirty-six districts, many of which had negative caps, attempted an override. ... Looking to restore programs, service and staff, the board of Rockland County's troubled East Ramapo schools is proposing a 2.49 percent tax increase, requiring a supermajority vote, the Journal News reported. ... With the implementation of the tax cap voter turnout for school budget votes has decreased by about 40 percent, Borges said. ... Meanwhile, the passage rate for budgets has remained high, with those requiring a simple majority passing by more than 95 percent since 2012-13, according to the business officials. For the past two years the passage rates were 99 percent. Read more here.

— See breakdowns on individual district budgets in the Buffalo area via the Buffalo News, here; the Capitol Region via the Times Union, here; Long Island via Newsday, here; Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties via the Journal News, here; and view a statewide database via the Democrat and Chronicle, here.

— Does the tax cap work? It depends on who you ask. — Buffalo News' Barbara O'Brien. Read more here.

**GOOD MONDAY MORNING. Carmen Fariña** will greet parents and give brief remarks at at Queens school targeted by federal immigration agents last week. **MaryEllen Elia** and Regent **Christine Cea** will host a public hearing in Staten Island on the state's draft Every Student Succeeds Act plan. The state **Assembly** and **Senate** will convene in Albany. The **United Federation of Teachers** will hold a panel discussion on immigration; **Randi Weingarten** will participate. **Carmen Fariña** and **Betty Rosa** did not release public schedules.

This newsletter is for you, so tell us how we can make it better. Send feedback, tips and education-related events to eshapiro@politico.com, kclukey@politico.com
A CHAT WITH THE INCOMING SUNY CHANCELLOR: Incoming SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson Friday stressed the need for interdisciplinary thinking in higher education. Johnson, who is an engineer, entrepreneur, CEO of an energy company, and a former energy undersecretary for former president Barack Obama, told WCNY's Susan Arbetter on "The Capitol Pressroom," that the arts are equally as important as science. "Art is everything that humans develop," Johnson said describing architecture, poetry and music. "Science is all about a living system, whereas the other one is what the living systems create." Johnson said there are "artificial barriers" created between the two. — POLITICO New York's Keshia Clukey. Listen to the interview here.

— Fun facts: Johnson is a coffee lover and was born in Colorado. She played field hockey and lacrosse and had aspirations to play field hockey at the national level, adding that she always wanted to be an Olympian but "didn't have that level of talent."

TRUMP IMMIGRATION POLICY COMES TO NYC: A federal immigration officer from USCIS, an immigration branch of DHS, showed up at PS 58 in Maspeth, Queens, last week seeking information about a fourth grade student, according to the mayor's office. The officer did not have a warrant and was turned away by the school safety agent and a school administrator. Read more here, via POLITICO New York's Eliza Shapiro.

VIDEO OF THE DAY: New York City high school students jamming before a parade to call for more arts education, via @AubernaLevy. See it here.

EDUCATION MOVES: "The Downtown Brooklyn Partnership's managing director of real estate has left for Success Academy, the charter school founded by Eva Moskowitz. Alan Washington stepped down from his post at the partnership, where he oversaw real estate consulting services, research and planning." — The Real Deal's Kathryn Brenzel. Read more here.

— "The Hempstead school board voted 3-2 Thursday night to approve a four-year contract for incoming Superintendent Shimon Waronker that will pay him $265,000 a year." — Newsday's Scott Eidler. Read more here.

— Karl Luntta, University at Albany's director of media relations, is retiring as of June 2.

READING LIST: This deep dive into the winners and losers of Indiana's voucher system — overseen in part by now Vice President Mike Pence — is worth your time. — NPR's Cory Turner, Eric Weddle and Peter Balonon-Rosen. Read more here.

BUFFALO SCHOOLS ADDRESS DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT — Buffalo News' Aaron Besecker and Tiffany Lankes: "Two days after a lawsuit alleged a Buffalo high school principal discriminated against LGBTQ students, Buffalo Public Schools Superintendent Kriner Cash and School Board President Barbara Seals-Nevekgold on Friday announced students will be allowed to attend the McKinley High School prom next week with 'their guest of choice,' and school Principal Crystal Boling-Barton has been placed on administrative leave." Read more here.
The Buffalo Parent-Teacher Organization: "We call on the Principal of McKinley High to immediately permit the establishment of a Gay Straight Alliance, which is afforded in other high schools and with other student clubs at McKinley High School. We also call on the Principal of McKinley to immediately restore confidence in the student population at McKinley High School that LGBTQ students will be treated with dignity and afforded the rights and liberties under federal and state law and district policy."

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "This union has to lead the way if we're going to save this country." — Bill de Blasio, speaking at the United Federation of Teachers' annual meeting on Saturday.

BONUS VIDEO OF THE DAY: Former President Bill Clinton gives the commencement address at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. — Associated Press. Watch it here.

AROUND NEW YORK:

— "The city's Education Department took a step aimed at quelling a parent rebellion at Central Park East 1, a progressive elementary school in East Harlem, on Friday by installing an official whose job will be to oversee the school, effectively superseding the principal..." — New York Times' Kate Taylor. Read more here.

— "The Brooklyn Diocese has ordered a high-performing Queens charter school to leave the church building where it's quartered because it is not a Catholic high school." — Daily News' Ben Chapman and Chelsia Rose Marcus. Read more here.

— The vice president of the Wayne Central School District Board of Education has apologized for an insensitive Facebook post from his personal page, according to the school district..." — Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. Read more here.

ACROSS THE RIVER:

— "A loose-knit group that includes some of the country's wealthiest people has underwritten the political push for school choice around the country over the last two decades. ... The Associated Press examined how much the relatively small group of wealthy contributors has given to state and federal candidates, political action committees and school choice-related state ballot initiatives." — Associated Press. Read more here.

AROUND THE NATION:

— Education Secretary Betsy DeVos called Friday a "big win" for implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act after 16 states submitted education plans that federal officials deem complete. DeVos said the agency has worked with states to ensure their plans align with a framework released by the Education Department earlier this year. — POLITICO's Caitlin Emma

STUDY UP: "New York City's announcement this week that it is doubling down on community schools indicates a firm belief that the program is working. But is this model effective, and by what measures? New research from an initiative in Texas..."
and North Carolina aims to help answer those questions — and finds mixed evidence..." — Chalkbeat's Matt Barnum. Read more here. Read more about the city's community school expansion here.

To view online:

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