



DAVIDS V. NEW YORK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Isn't this an attack on teachers and teachers unions?

Dauids v. New York was filed against the state of New York—not against teachers or the teachers union—given the state’s constitutional obligation to ensure the availability of a sound basic education to all its children. *Dauids* is really about modernizing the teaching profession and ensuring that our education system is performance-based, and not quality-blind. Above all, this lawsuit is an affirmation of the importance of teachers to the quality of students’ education and a challenge for all of us to do things differently to make sure our students are getting all of the resources they need to succeed – not just books and desks but also a highly motivated, highly effective teacher in each classroom every day.

2. What outcome are you hoping for?

We believe every student deserves the opportunity to truly learn and succeed, and we are hoping that this lawsuit will bring us closer to the day when the barriers to a quality education are removed from our education system. We need to protect and reward the passionate, motivating, dedicated teachers who are doing a great job, and ensure that our students are not trapped in a classroom with a teacher who is not cutting it. We can make common sense, responsible changes that will put an effective teacher in every classroom. This lawsuit will be an opportunity to make those changes and to do what’s right.

3. Are you challenging tenure?

We are not challenging tenure. What we are advocating in this lawsuit is common-sense changes to our education laws that move us from a quality-blind to a performance-based system. Unlike in California, where Students Matter, challenged the State’s LIFO, dismissal *and* tenure laws, in New York, we are challenging the state’s LIFO and dismissal statutes. **We are not challenging the tenure law in New York due to the recent changes to the law that requires districts to consider classroom performance as a factor in granting permanent employment. The fact that New York now considers teacher quality in its tenure decisions is a critical distinction compared to California.**

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