THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE MAYOR NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 16, 2020

MEDIA CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

MAYOR DE BLASIO ANNOUNCES FREE CHILDCARE FOR 100,000 STUDENTS IN THE FALL

NEW YORK—Mayor Bill de Blasio today announced that New York City is planning to provide quality, safe, free childcare options for 100,000 children this fall. This follows the release of the Mayor and Chancellor's preliminary school reopening plan, which utilizes a cohort-based blended learning system with both remote and in-person education for students.

"This pandemic has been hugely disruptive in the lives of our kids, which is why we are working to provide as much in person learning as possible. Working families are being pulled in many directions trying to make a plan for the fall, and we are going to help them every step of the way by providing free childcare options," said **Mayor de Blasio.**

The City's childcare options will provide relief for families who cannot stay home or find alternate care for their children on days they are not in school buildings. Childcare will be made available for children in 3K through 8th grade, and there will be approximately 50,000 seats available each day. Given the nature of a blended remote and in-person approach, this means the City plans to serve at least 100,000 students total. The Administration is working to identify locations and maximize available space for childcare in schools, community centers, libraries, cultural organizations, and more. New Yorkers with available space that could potentially be utilized for childcare should visit www.nycsca.org/realestate/sites. The City is working to have as many seats as possible ready for the first day of school, with capacity building out over time.

The health and safety of students and staff will always come first, and the Department of Education is currently planning for a blended learning model in the fall, with an option for families who wish to do so to remain fully remote. Starting yesterday, parents and guardians are able to opt their child into a fully remote learning model by filling out this form. Families who choose full-time remote learning for September can opt back into in-person instruction up until Friday, August 7th by filling out the form again. After August 7th, families who chose full-time remote learning will be able to opt back into in-person instruction during designated timeframes during the school year, starting this fall.

The City will continue to coordinate closely with the State as re-opening plans develop.