



**ADASA Executive Board**  
www.ADASA.org  
ExecutiveBoard@adasa.org

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Contact:  
Socorro Diaz,  
Emmanuel Polanco  
teacherexchange@adasa.org  
914-531-6182

## **Teachers from the Dominican Republic begin educational-cultural exchange in NYC**

The Association of Dominican-American Schools Supervisors and Administrators in New York (ADASA NY) recruited 25 highly qualified teachers from the Dominican Republic to start a cultural-educational exchange in New York City. The program aims to include 50 teachers by the end of the school year 2022-2023.

ADASA NY vice president, Emmanuel Polanco, principal of Middle School 80 in The Bronx, made the announcement during a press conference held at the Consulate General of the Dominican Republic, together with New York School Chancellor David C. Banks and Dominican Consul Eligio Jáquez.

Polanco explained that the teachers were recruited from different places in the Dominican Republic, to teach different subjects in New York classrooms.

“The launching of the program marks a historic moment for the Spanish speaking community, which will increase opportunities to embrace our cultures, facilitating the global exchange,” said Jáquez, Dominican Consul in New York City.

New York City has a high student population with roots in the Dominican Republic, which made it necessary to have teachers that can make the cultural connection with the students.

“The largest group of students in New York City are from Dominican and Latin origins. The future of New York City and the United States, hangs from the quality of the education our children receive. We have the responsibility to give them the best education and we have to make sure that our children preserve their native language, cultural roots, and have the best bilingual teachers available to them,” said ADASA NY president Socorro Diaz.

ADASA NY vice president, principal Polanco, explained that the teachers that are taking part in the exchange program are “very well qualified professionals, who underwent a rigorous selection process to be included in this program. They are committed to making a positive difference in the learning process of our students in New York City, and they have the cultural connection with Dominican and Latin children to achieve their goal.”

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## **The selection process**

A commission of ADASA NY traveled to the Dominican Republic multiple times this year, and met with officials from the Ministry of Education, prior to starting the recruiting process. The teachers are qualified to teach Math, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Social Studies, TESOL, English, Spanish, French and Aviation.

The 25 teachers came from different places in the Dominican Republic, including Santo Domingo, Santiago, Elías Piña, Constanza, Pedro Brand, Puerto Plata, Samaná, Haina, Moca, Bayaguana, Nizao, San Juan de la Maguana y La Vega.

ADASA NY is a non-profit organization that groups Dominican-American New York City school supervisors.