

Buery, U.F.T. to tour Cincinnati community schools



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By [Eliza Shapiro](#) 5:06 a.m. | Oct. 7, 2014 [follow this reporter](#)

Deputy mayor Richard Buery and United Federation of Teachers president Michael Mulgrew will travel to Cincinnati this week to tour the Ohio city's famed community schools as New York City hones its own strategy for the program, Capital has learned.

Buery, Mulgrew and several staffers from City Hall and the union will leave New York on Wednesday and return Thursday evening.

Buery, the former president and C.E.O. of the Children's Aid Society, which manages community schools in New York, said he's most interested in seeing how Cincinnati has integrated the community schools into its overall educational system.

"What Cincinnati does, that they have probably done better than any other city, certainly better than New York at this time, is not just to have a collection of great community schools, but to have a system of community schools," Buery said in an interview Monday evening. "I want to see what it means for a city to build a system of community schools. What did that take in terms of the political will, in terms of how different city agencies and the private sector has to work together."

Cincinnati is often praised, [particularly by union leaders](#), for its robust community schools model. As a mayoral candidate, Bill de Blasio [visited Cincinnati's schools](#) with Mulgrew.

Community schools are typically opened in low-income neighborhoods and include wraparound health and social services for both students and parents. But the degree to which community schools actually boost academic achievement—[even in Cincinnati](#)—is in dispute.

Still, de Blasio pledged during his campaign to open 100 new community schools by 2018. The city is finalizing partnerships between schools and community-based centers for the first 40 community schools, Buery said, with new batches to be rolled out in coming months.

Buery, who has played a major role in the implementation of the de Blasio administration's expansion of pre-kindergarten in the city, said the Cincinnati visit will also inform how the community schools plan "fits into the chancellor's broader vision for education."