

## Chancellor Search 2000

The Board of Education of the City of New York is soliciting testimony on the selection of a Chancellor. My suggestion is that applicants be asked what they intend to do about the two-tier system of education that we have in New York City. Parents happily and proudly send their children to a tier-1 public school. Children are sent to a tier-2 out of economic necessity.

It is not a matter of demographics. Middle class parents living in Bedford-Stuyvesant gladly send their children to Boys and Girls High School (tier-1), whereas in Park Slope no middle class parents send their children to John Jay High School (tier-2).

I am a former teacher who had positions at both tier-1 and tier-2 high schools. At the tier-1 school I began teaching at, the dean of discipline once told me, "There is no student going to this school that I cannot control". At the time, as a beginning teacher, I did not understand what he meant. I do now. I transferred to a tier-2 high school and learned about children who have an attitude that makes educating them very difficult. When I transferred again to another tier-1 school I found that, just as with the first tier-1 school, there were no children who were not controllable.

Many teachers for various reasons are not successful at tier-1 schools and transfer to tier-2 schools. This does not mean instruction is better at tier 1 schools. I was considered a satisfactory teacher at the tier-2 school I taught at, but when I transferred to a tier-1 school my teaching was considered unsatisfactory. My teaching was more "learner-centered" than was deemed appropriate, and I was subjected to disciplinary actions.

You can read about my ideas on teaching and discipline at my website: [www.panix.com/~roemer](http://www.panix.com/~roemer). The site also contains documents concerning my termination under Section 3020-a of Education Law.