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## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT NAMED CHANCELLOR OF NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS

*Alberto Carvalho to succeed Carmen Fariña, who will retire*

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New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio named Miami-Dade County Public Schools superintendent Alberto Carvalho as the next head of the country's largest school system, going for a leader with a record of expanding school choices and improving student achievement.

The appointment of Mr. Carvalho ends a lengthy search for a schools chancellor by the de Blasio administration, which announced in December that Carmen Fariña would step down.

Mr. Carvalho has run the Miami-Dade public schools system, the fourth-largest school district in the U.S, since 2008. Like Ms. Fariña, he has spent his entire career in education.

He will take over a system that serves 1.1 million children and has made strides under Mr. de Blasio and Ms. Fariña, who came out of retirement to run it. But the New York City school system has long struggled with wide achievement gaps among students of different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. About 75 percent live in poverty and rising numbers are English-language learners.

Challenges loom, including negotiating a new contract with a strong teachers union. The contract expires this summer.

"Alberto Carvalho is a world-class educator with an unmatched track record of success. I am very confident that our extensive, national search has found New York City the best person," Mr. de Blasio said in a statement. He said he looked forward to working with Mr. Carvalho to build on the accomplishments of Ms. Fariña.

As a superintendent in Florida, where a school shooting in Parkland killed 17 people in February, Mr. Carvalho was on the same page as Mr. de Blasio in disputing President Donald Trump's proposal to arm teachers. Mr. Carvalho instead sought funding for more school counselors.

"This is not the wild west," his office quoted him as saying in a tweet. "Teachers should be armed with money, technology, inspiration and love, not weapons. How much more will we ask of our teachers?"

StudentsFirstNY, a pro-charter advocacy group that has often criticized the mayor, said in a release it hoped Mr. Carvalho would be "the independent leader that public school children desperately need."

United Federation of Teachers President Michael Mulgrew said he looked forward to working with Mr. Carvalho, who had a "collaborative relationship" with the Miami district's teaching staff.

Success Academy CEO Eva Moskowitz , who has often sparred with the mayor, applauded the choice of Mr. Carvalho and even took some credit, saying in a release that “he’s specifically one of the candidates I suggested to the Mayor in December.”

Mr. Carvalho has expanded the number of specialized programs in Miami-Dade County to more than 500, including in performing arts, engineering and other areas. He also founded the iPrep Academy in downtown Miami as a laboratory for using technology in the classroom, and served as its principal.

The percentage of students graduating high school in four years rose to 81 percent last spring, from 68 percent in 2010, district data showed.

Mr. Carvalho supported the adoption of performance pay for teachers. In recent years, amid a backlash by some parents against what they consider too much testing, he introduced measures to reduce the number of assessments students faced.

Judging by the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress, often called “the nation’s report card,” achievement edged up in Miami schools under his watch. That year 26 percent of eighth-graders were proficient in math, 32 percent in reading and 18 percent in science. Those figures were roughly similar to New York City rates.

In 2014, Mr. Carvalho was named National Superintendent of the Year by AASA, the School Superintendents Association. That same year, President Barack Obama honored him at the White House.

Mr. Carvalho was born in Portugal and has often highlighted his immigrant roots. When the Miami area has grappled with sudden influxes of immigrant students – whether unaccompanied minors from Central America or Haitians fleeing the 2010 earthquake on the island – he has implemented a response plan to absorb them.

John Schuster, a spokesman for the Miami-Dade school system, confirmed that Mr. de Blasio had named Mr. Carvalho chancellor. He added that Mr. Carvalho “has not yet accepted and will not be making public comments on this matter until he addresses the board he has worked for 10 years” on Thursday. A spokesman for Mr. Carvalho said he wouldn’t comment until Thursday.