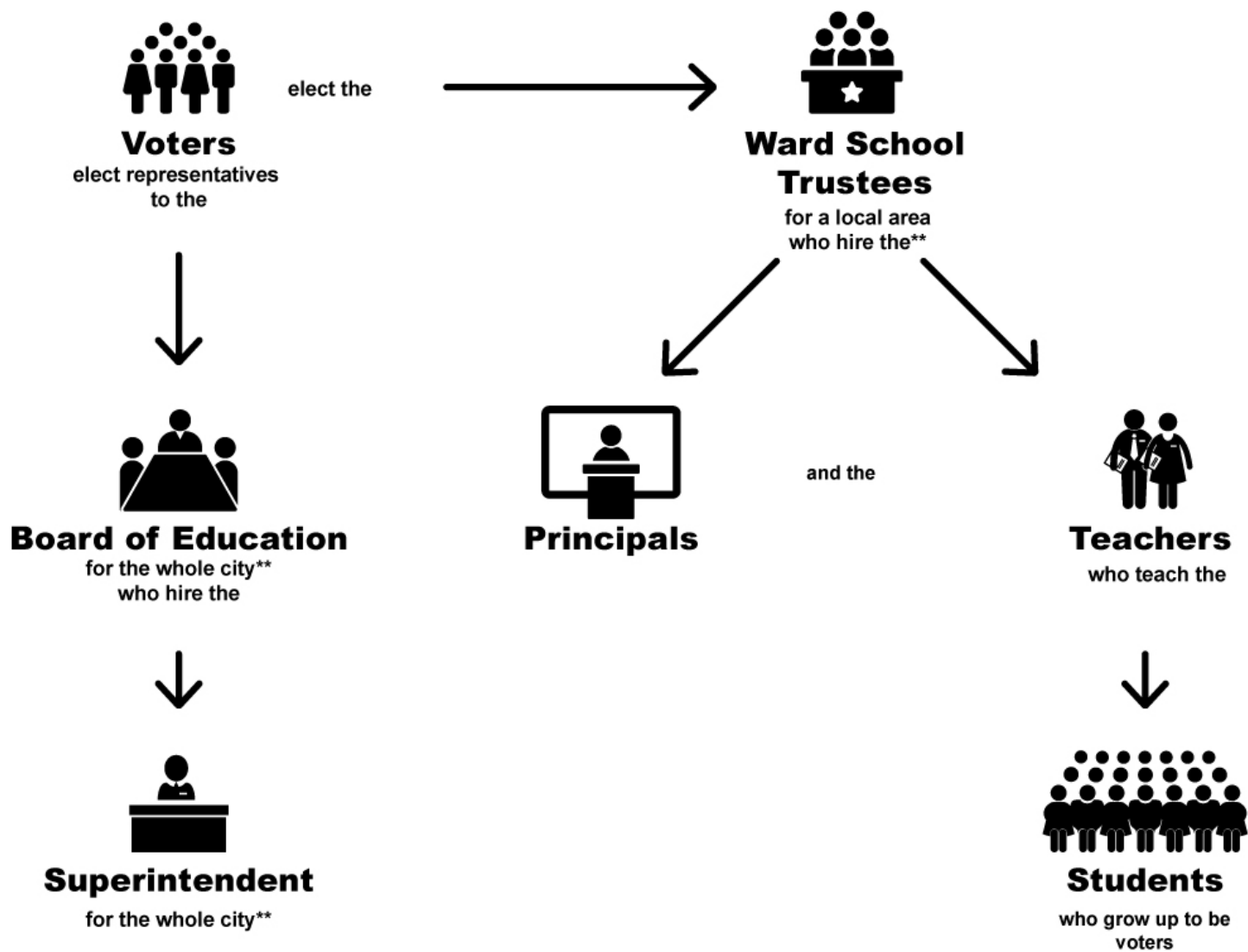


# Who Governs NYC Schools?



For sources:

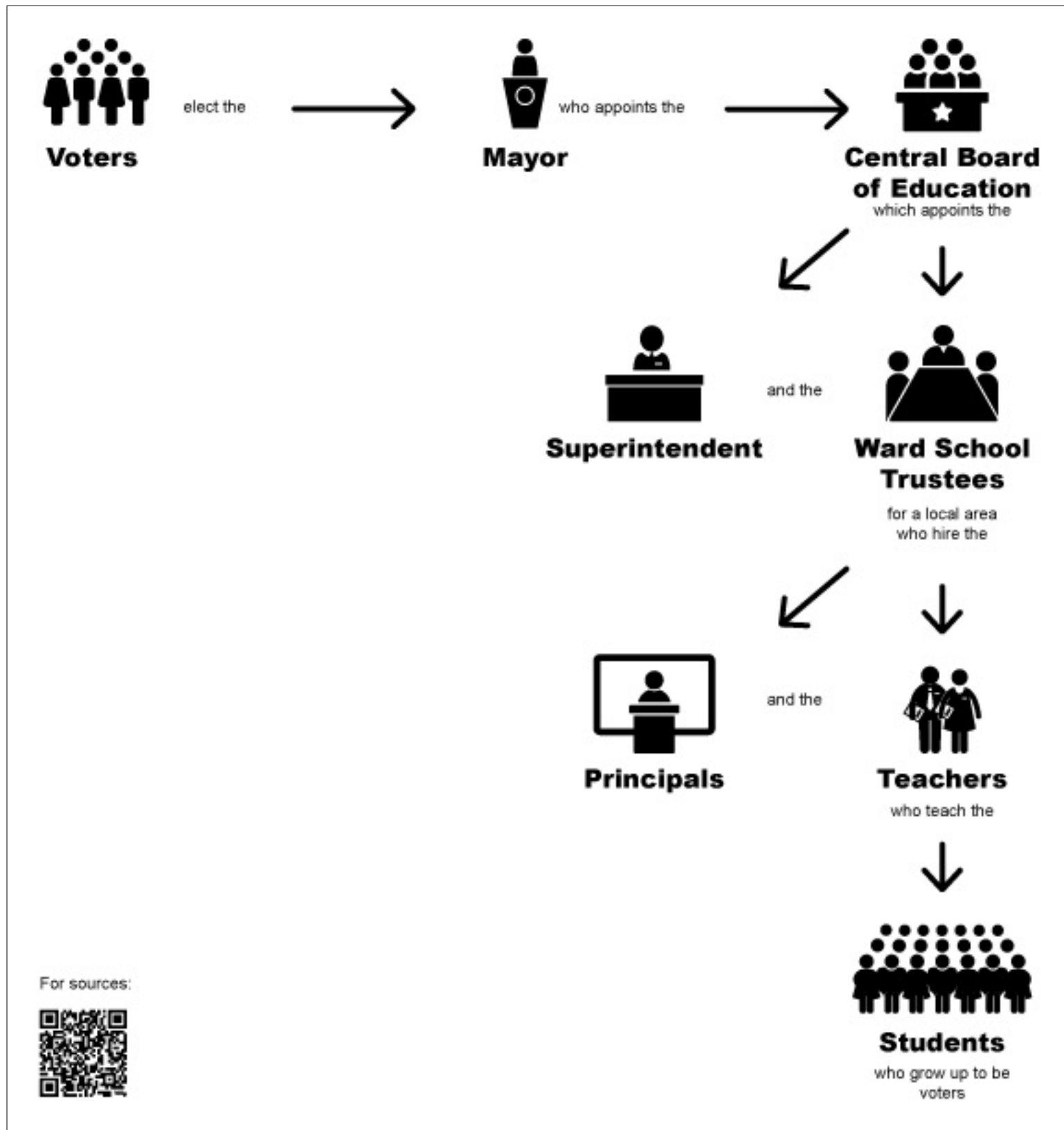


## Local governance 1842-1873\*

\*Except for 1869-1871, when the board was briefly removed and then replaced by mayoral control.

\*\* Each of the present-day boroughs of NYC (Manhattan Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island) were at this time separate municipalities, each with their own school system. This visualization is based on the structure in place in Manhattan

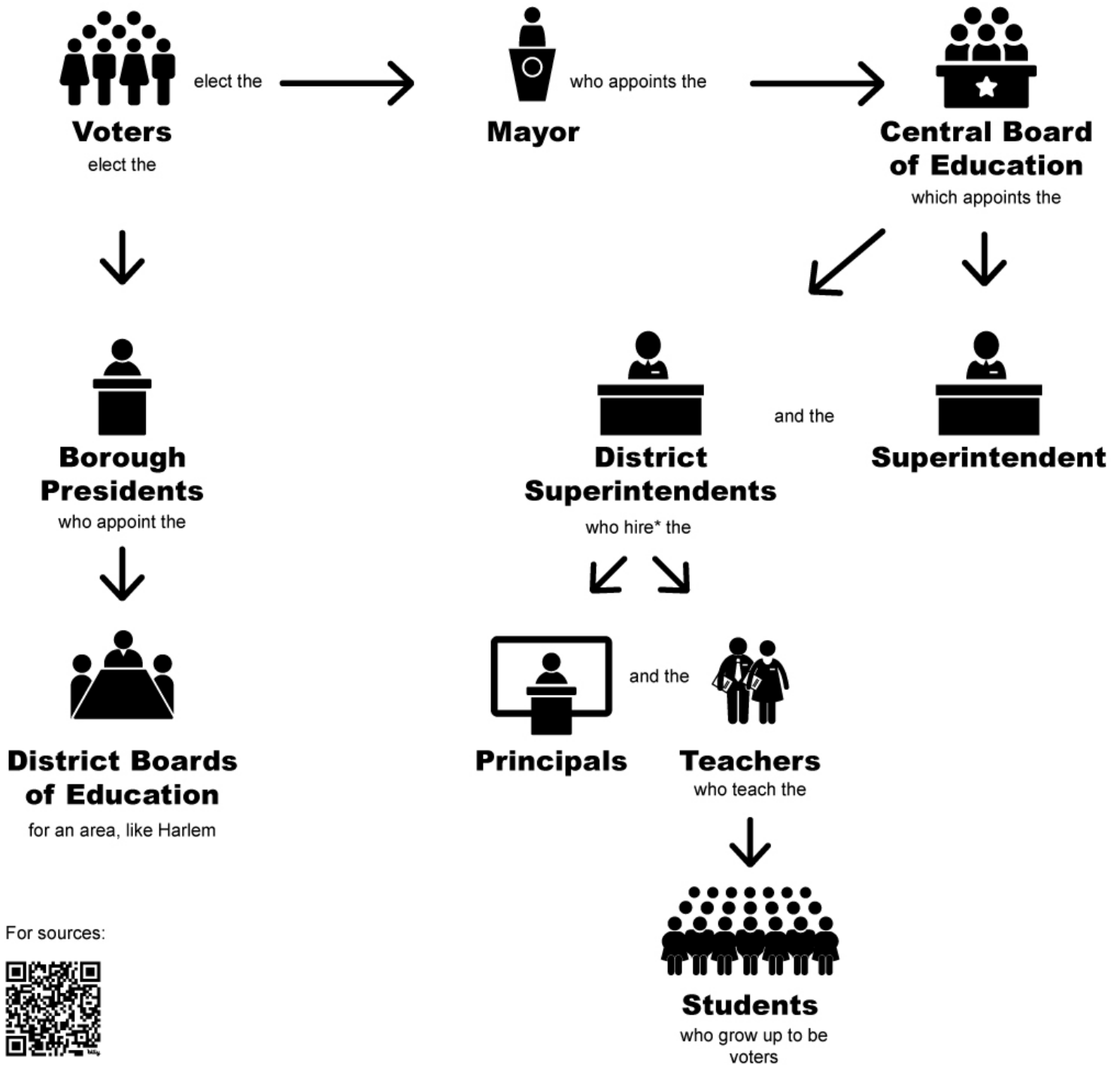
# Who Governs NYC Schools?



## Centralized school governance, part I 1873-1896

Note that this model is based on Manhattan and the Bronx. More research is needed to determine if there were variations in Brooklyn, Queens, and Richmond/Staten Island.

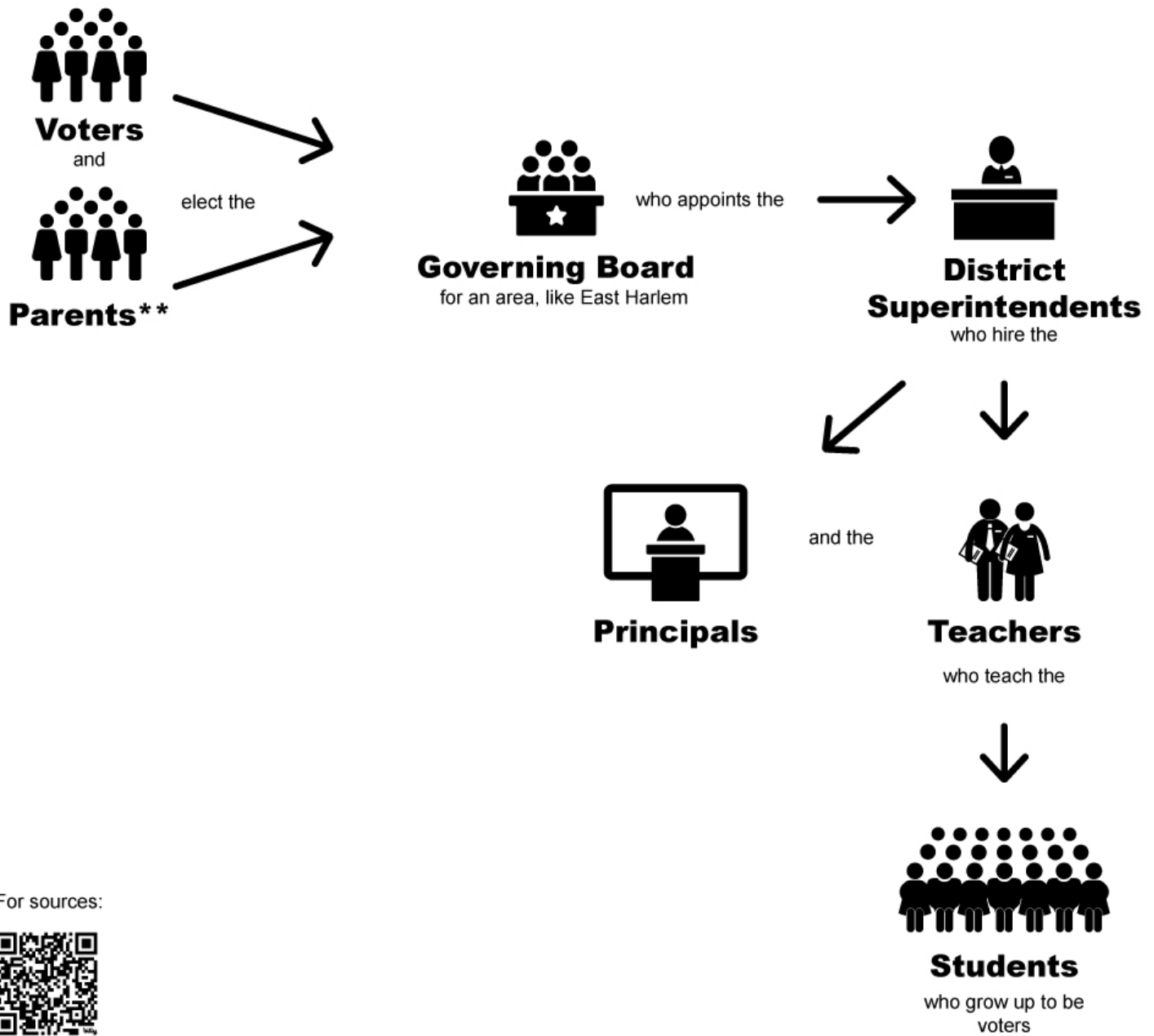
# Who Governs NYC Schools?



## Centralized school governance, part II 1902-1970

Note that this model is based on Manhattan and the Bronx. More research is needed to determine if there were variations in Brooklyn, Queens, and Richmond/Staten Island.

# Who Governs (some)\* NYC Schools?

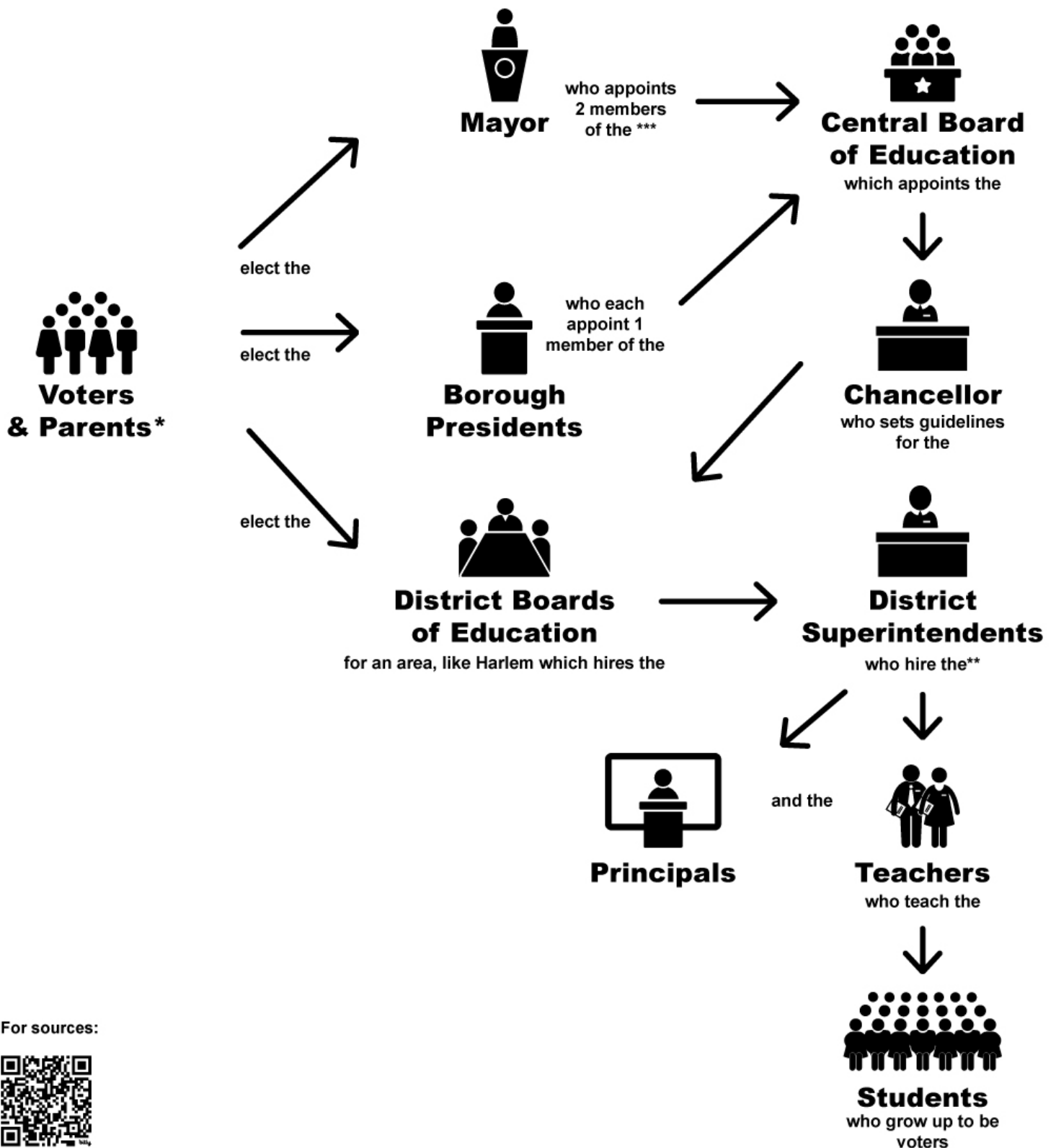


## Community Control Demonstration Districts 1966-70

\* This slide describes the governance structure in 3 community control demonstration districts that were located in East Harlem, Ocean Hill-Brownsville, and the Lower East Side.

\*\* Parents are included here in addition to voters because community members who were not US citizens and thus could not vote in other elections could participate in school board elections.

# Who Governs NYC Schools?



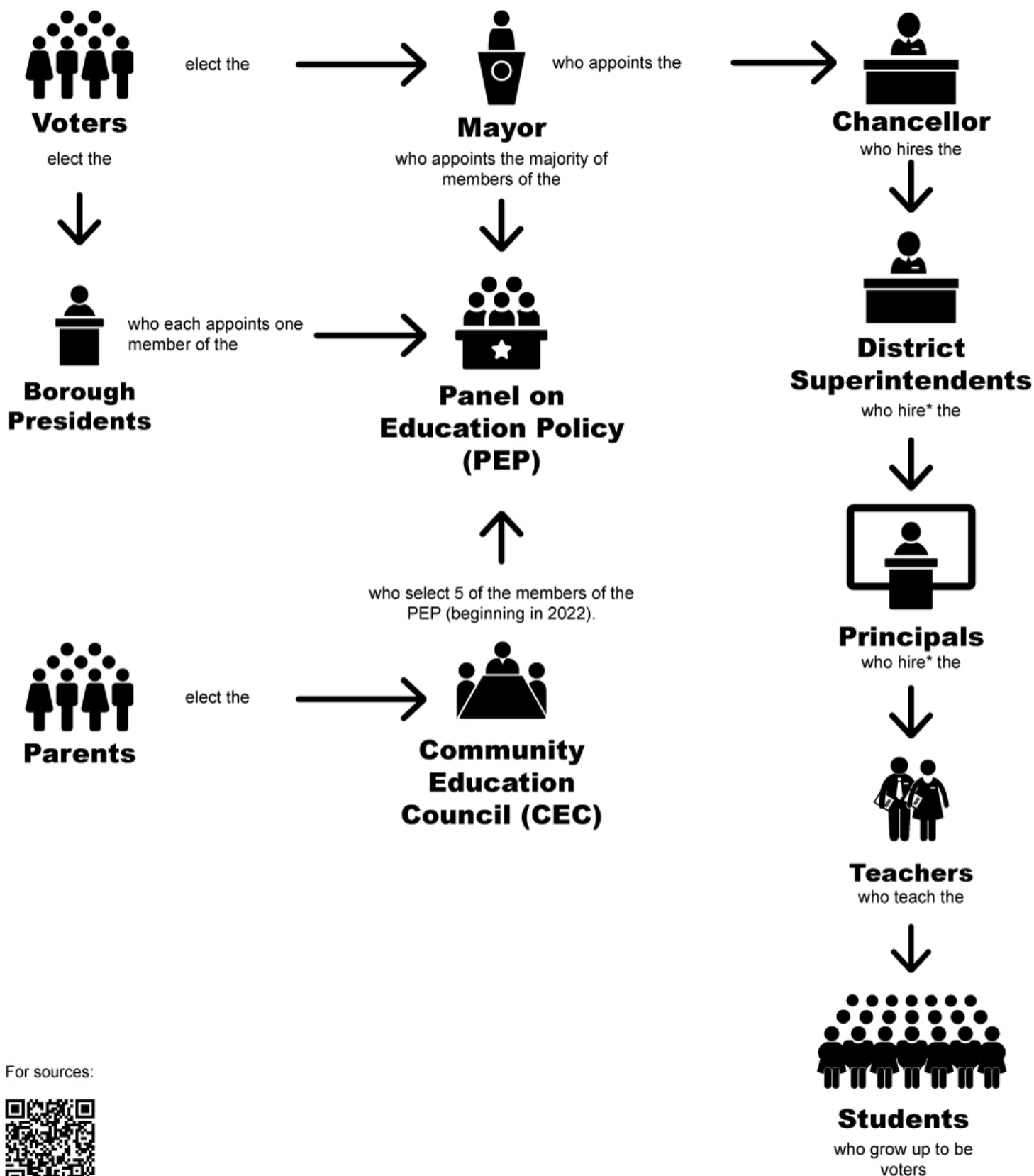
## Decentralized school governance 1970-2002

\*Parents who are not citizens can vote in board of education elections only

\*\* Hiring is governed by rules established by the Board of Examiners (until 1990) and by union contracts.

\*\*\* This mayoral power was added in 1973. Before then, only the presidents appointed Board of Education members. From 1996-2002, this structure remained but the Chancellor hired the District Superintendents.

# Who Governs NYC Schools?



## Mayoral Control 2002-today

\* Hiring is governed by union contracts.

# Sources and credits

This visualization was initially designed by Ansley Erickson and revised based on feedback from teachers and students at Wadleigh Secondary School in 2020 and 2024, from colleagues, from team members in the [New York City Civil Rights History Project](#), and from participants at the 2023 NEH Summer Institute Harlem's Education Movements Summer Institute.

## It draws from the following sources, as well additional research:

Ravitch, Diane. *The Great School Wars : A History of the New York City Public Schools*. New York: Basic Books, c1988.

Ravitch, Diane, and Joseph P. Viteritti. *When Mayors Take Charge: School Governance in the City*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2008.

## To learn more, see:

New York City Civil Rights History Project, [www.nyccivilrightshistory.org](http://www.nyccivilrightshistory.org)

School Colors Podcast, Season 1. [www.schoolcolorspodcast.com](http://www.schoolcolorspodcast.com)

Jonathan Collins on *Have You Heard?* podcast,

<https://soundcloud.com/haveyouheardpodcast/public-education-democracy>

Collins, Christina. *"Ethnically Qualified": Race, Merit, and the Selection of Urban Teachers, 1920-1980*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2011.

Erickson, Ansley T., and Ernest Morrell, eds. *Educating Harlem: A Century of Schooling and Resistance in a Black Community*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019.

Ferguson, Karen. *Top down: The Ford Foundation, Black Power, and the Reinvention of Racial Liberalism*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013.

Isaacs, Charles S. *Inside Ocean Hill-Brownsville: A Teacher's Education, 1968-69*. Albany, N.Y.: Excelsior Editions, SUNY Press, 2014.

Morel, Domingo. *Takeover: Race, Education, and American Democracy*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Perlstein, Daniel H. *Justice, Justice : School Politics and the Eclipse of Liberalism*. New York: P. Lang, c2004.

Podair, Jerald E. *The Strike That Changed New York : Blacks, Whites, and the Ocean Hill-Brownsville Crisis*. New Haven: Yale University Press, c2002.

Pritchett, Wendell E. *Brownsville, Brooklyn : Blacks, Jews, and the Changing Face of the Ghetto*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002.

Tyack, David B. *The One Best System : A History of American Urban Education*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1974.