

# Community Education Council District 28

## Resolution in Support of Sustaining Key Education Programs Funded with Expiring Federal COVID-19 Relief

**APPROVED** at the **March 7, 2024 Calendar Meeting** by a vote of the CEC D28 members present at the time of the vote (11 in favor / 0 opposed / 0 abstain / 1 absent)

**Sponsor:** Simone Dornbach

**Co-Sponsors:** Adriana Alicea, Vijah Ramjattan, Yutao Cheng, Kalyanaram Gurumurthy, Quentin Mezetin, Tanya Wendt, Lu Zhao, Nathifa Lewis

**WHEREAS**, over the last several years, New York City Public Schools (“NYCPS”) has benefited from more than \$7 billion in temporary federal stimulus funding; and

**WHEREAS**, NYCPS has used this funding not only to address temporary pandemic-related challenges, but also to create and expand a range of essential education programs, including, this year alone, investing:

- **\$456 million for 3-K**, doubling the number of children who can participate in this program.
- **\$96 million for preschool special education**, helping the city to address a significant shortage of legally required preschool special education classes, helping programs recruit and retain certified special education teachers, and adding service providers and staff to help with the development of service plans.
- **\$80 million for Summer Rising**, to help provide 110,000 students with access to full-day summer programming that includes academic enrichment and recreational activities.
- **\$67 million to hire 450 school social workers**, allowing nearly 194,000 students to gain access to a social worker.
- **\$65 million for school nurses**, enabling every school building to have a nurse.
- **\$55 million to expand community schools**, increasing the number of schools that provide students and families with wrap-around support from 266 to more than 400.
- **\$33 million for Learning to Work**, which provides support to over-age, under-credited students to help them earn a high school diploma and develop a post-secondary plan.
- **\$22.5 million to launch the Sensory Exploration, Education, and Discovery (SEED) program**, which provides students with intensive sensory needs with small group support from occupational and physical therapists.

- **\$12 million for restorative justice programs**, allowing more schools to use disciplinary alternatives that keep students in the classroom, allowing them to build and repair relationships.
- **\$10 million to hire 60 school psychologists and 15 family workers** to address delays in the evaluation process for students with disabilities.
- **\$10 million to hire bilingual staff** to support the education of English Language Learners.
- **\$9 million for shelter-based coordinators** to help students who are homeless get to school every day and access additional education support.
- **\$7 million for literacy instruction and dyslexia programming**, helping to support screening, new specialized programs for students with dyslexia, and targeted reading interventions in dozens of schools.
- **\$7 million for translation and interpretation services**, which are particularly vital at a time when 40% of NYCPS students speak a language other than English at home, allowing parents to participate in their children's education more readily.
- **\$3.3 million for Student Success Centers**, where trained youth leaders build a culture of college-going and help their peers with the college admissions process.

**WHEREAS**, the list above of essential programs does not reflect every investment made by NYCPS using temporary federal stimulus funds;

**WHEREAS**, the funds supporting these programs will expire in less than a year; and

**WHEREAS**, these programs address needs that existed long before the pandemic and will continue to exist long after these funds expire; and

**WHEREAS**, NYCPS does not have a plan for how to support these programs once the federal funding ends; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and State should have made these investments long before the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, rolling back these programs would have a detrimental impact on students and school communities, disproportionately harming students from low-income families, students of color, and the students with the greatest needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the threat to these programs existed even before Mayor Adams' announcement of a 15% cut to each agency, including NYCPS; and

**WHEREAS**, New York City is currently experiencing an influx of newcomer students relying on many of the essential services that are in danger of being cut due to budget constraints; and

**WHEREAS**, although there is federal funding currently addressing the influx of newcomers, and a significant percentage of the population is made of school age children, a specific portion is not set aside for these students in addition to already allocated education funding.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council District 28 urges elected leaders at the state and city levels to identify funding for these programs so that students can continue to receive critical support and services and avoid a massive setback to public education.