



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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The Community and Citywide Education Councils (CCECs) are composed of parents who have been elected or appointed to serve as stakeholders of NYC School Community Districts, and specific cohorts of students, representing NYC public school students and their families.

Resolution Affirming the Values of the District 15 Community Education Council and New York City Public Schools to Ensure All Students and their Families Are Welcome and Safe Regardless of Immigration Status

Sponsors: Angelica Cesario, Katina Rogers

WHEREAS, the District 15 Community Education Council (CEC15) wholeheartedly embraces its commitment to creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) students, staff, and families regardless of immigration status.

WHEREAS, it is [the policy of NYCPS](#) to provide equal educational opportunities without regard to national origin, alienage, or citizenship status.

WHEREAS, NYCPS students, staff and their families originate from many different countries besides the United States, may have received temporary legal status under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), may be applicants for [Special Immigration Juvenile Status](#) (SIJS), may be undocumented and/or may live in mixed status households (meaning one or various members of the family can be undocumented while others have some kind of temporary or permanent status).

WHEREAS, NYCPS reflects the diverse population of the world, which our schools celebrate in many ways.

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2025, Dylan Lopez Contreras, a student at the English Language Learners and International Support Preparatory Academy, an NYCPS transfer high school in the Bronx, was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents while he attended a mandatory court hearing pertaining to his application for asylum and for SIJS, and since then has been moved to New Jersey, Texas, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania, spending most of that time with his hands and feet cuffed.

WHEREAS, [the May 21, 2025 arrest of Dylan was the first known example of a current NYCPS student being detained by ICE during this new presidential administration.](#)

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2025 [the New York City Law Department filed an amicus brief in Dylan’s case](#) arguing that Dylan’s arrest at a routine immigration hearing “sends a message to the thousands of other SIJS applicants in New York City alone that their appearance in court—be it for an SIJS proceeding or otherwise—may cut them out of the legal residency process they were otherwise willing to follow,” and concluding that “the City has an interest in ensuring that individuals like Dylan are afforded their rights under the law. The City offers resources to help immigrants, including those resources accessed by Dylan, such as the asylum help center he visited, and the English-language program he was attending at Ellis High School. Those steps help immigrants integrate into the community and contribute to its economic and cultural growth, as Dylan was already doing.”

WHEREAS, [on June 6, 2025 it was reported that another NYCPS student, Derlis Snaider Chusin Toaquiza - an 11th grader at Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood, Queens - was arrested by ICE while attending a legal hearing to seek asylum, was detained at 26 Federal Plaza for several days where he was fed only one meal a day and forced to sleep standing up for lack of space, before being sent to an ICE facility in Texas.](#)

WHEREAS, [Derlis was detained by ICE for approximately six weeks before a Texas immigration judge granted his release on a \\$20,000 bond.](#)

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2025 [Mamadou Mouctar Diallo \(Mouctar\), a student at Brooklyn Frontiers High School, was arrested while attending a hearing at US immigration court in lower Manhattan and was transferred to an ICE detention facility in Pennsylvania.](#)

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2025 Darya, [a 7-year-old student at PS 89 in Queens, was detained along with her mother and 19-year-old brother at an ICE enforcement check-in](#) at 26 Federal Plaza and is now being held at an ICE detention center in Texas.

WHEREAS, [Darya’s sister, a 16-year-old NYCPS high school student, is now separated from her mother and siblings,](#) and is in the care of other relatives.

WHEREAS, Students in Temporary Housing (STH), many of whom are in the process of seeking asylum in the United States under DACA, SIJS, and other programs established by the federal government, have [the highest rates of chronic absenteeism among all student demographics tracked by NYCPS,](#)¹ and uncertainty around ICE enforcement activities creates a climate of fear that may further discourage school attendance for STH and for other NYCPS students.

¹ In the 2023-2024 school year the overall rate of chronic absenteeism in NYCPS was 34.8%, but for Students in Temporary Housing it was 51.7%. Chronic absenteeism is defined under Chancellor’s Regulation A-210 III.D. as an attendance rate of less than 90%.
https://pwsblobprd.schools.nyc/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-210-english.pdf?sfvrsn=706c8179_66

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2025, CEC15 adopted a [resolution](#) reaffirming our organization's commitment to celebrating, protecting and respecting all of our students, and demanding that DOE leadership resist attacks on students' and teachers' civil rights, human rights, and First Amendment rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CEC15 urges NYCPS to:

1. Work alongside immigration advocates to provide training and support for NYCPS students, staff and their families to best support students' education, safety, and wellbeing;
2. Provide multi-language resources for NYCPS students, staff, and their families on legal assistance and immigrant rights;
3. Continue to welcome all students and their families regardless of immigration status;
4. Refrain from providing assistance to ICE in the enforcement of federal civil immigration law; and
5. Refrain from permitting ICE officials with access to NYCPS facilities or personnel, except in the rare instances in which NYCPS is provided with a criminal warrant or where otherwise required by law.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that CEC15 urges Mayor Eric Adams and DOE leadership to actively advocate for the immediate release of NYCPS students Dylan, Mouctar, and Dayra (referenced above) so that they can safely return to their families and to their NYCPS schools.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that CEC15 urges Mayor Eric Adams and DOE leadership to fervently support Dylan, Derlis, Mouctar, and Dayra in pursuit of a positive resolution in each of their ongoing cases.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that CEC15 urges DOE leadership and elected officials to take action to ensure that New York City residents can safely attend mandated hearings without risking arrest or unlawful detention.

This Resolution was approved at a CEC15 Business Meeting held on August 19, 2025 by a unanimous vote of members present including: Katina Rogers, Elton Dodson, Jonathan Davis, Kenneth Ebie, Kim Wanliss, Angelica Cesario, Cara Zwerling-Moeller, Angelica Jadunandan, Qingxia Zhu.

Of the 9 members present, nine voted YES.