



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

March 25, 2025

The District 15 Community Education Council (CEC15) held a meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. After reviewing all the evidence and facts, CEC15 approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE CEC 15 IN OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ENDING SO-CALLED 'RADICAL INDOCTRINATION' AND IN SUPPORT OF CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION AND GENDER-AFFIRMING SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, public education in the United States has a constitutional obligation to provide an inclusive and equitable learning environment for all students, regardless of race, gender, or background; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution ensures that all children are treated fairly and equitably in public education; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program receiving federal financial assistance, including public schools; and

WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex, including protections for LGBTQ+ students, in educational institutions receiving federal funding; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump's executive order purporting to end so-called 'radical indoctrination' in schools¹ is a direct attack on the ability of educators to teach accurate, inclusive, and historically grounded curricula that reflect the diversity and lived experiences of all students; and

WHEREAS, such an order seeks to suppress discussions about systemic racism, historical

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-indoctrination-in-k-12-schooling/>

injustices, gender identity, and the lived experiences of marginalized communities, in direct violation of students' civil rights and their right to a truthful and inclusive education; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has issued guidance promoting Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CRSE) as a framework² to advance equity, affirm student identities, and support academic excellence for all students, particularly those from historically underrepresented communities; and

WHEREAS, NYSED has also affirmed the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive students in New York public schools³, ensuring their ability to access facilities, programs, and an educational environment that affirms their identities; and

WHEREAS, New York City public schools (NYCPS) have been implementing culturally responsive and gender-affirming education since 2019 as defined by the Panel for Educational Policy approval of the definition for CRSE in NYCPS, with students reporting that such efforts make them feel seen, valued, and lead to improved educational outcomes⁴; and

WHEREAS, New York City has made significant financial investments in evidence driven initiatives such as Black Studies, the Hidden Voices curriculum, the LGBTQ+ curriculum, and other Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CRSE) programs, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive and equitable Teacher Training Center (TTC) instruction; and

WHEREAS, studies have demonstrated that culturally responsive⁵ and gender-affirming curricula improve student outcomes, increase engagement, and foster safer and more supportive school environments for all children, particularly students of color and LGBTQ+ youth⁶; and

WHEREAS, the suppression of discussions about race, gender identity, and systemic inequities harms all students by failing to prepare them for participation in a diverse and democratic

² <https://www.nysed.gov/crs/framework>

³ <https://www.nysed.gov/sites/default/files/programs/student-support-services/creating-a-safe-supportive-and-affirming-school-environment-for-transgender-and-gender-expansive-students.pdf>

⁴

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/vision-and-mission/culturally-responsive-sustaining-education#:~:text=The%20DOE%20uses%20an%20educational,Sustaining%20Education%20in%20Schools%2C%20be%20Low.>

⁵ Ladson-Billings, G. (2021). Three Decades of Culturally Relevant, Responsive, & Sustaining Pedagogy: What Lies Ahead? *The Educational Forum*, 85(4), 351–354.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00131725.2021.1957632>

⁶ Kelley J, Pullen Sansfaçon A, Gelly MA, Chiniara L, Chadi N. School Factors Strongly Impact Transgender and Non-Binary Youths' Well-Being. *Children* (Basel). 2022 Oct 4;9(10):1520. doi: 10.3390/children9101520. PMID: 36291456; PMCID: PMC9599998.

society; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the CEC 15 strongly opposes President Donald Trump's executive order and any federal efforts to restrict truthful, inclusive, and equitable education in our schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CEC 15 reaffirms its commitment to providing culturally responsive and gender-affirming education in accordance with the New York State Education Department's guidance and the legal rights of students under federal and state law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CEC 15 calls on New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) to similarly strongly oppose President Donald Trump's Executive Order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NYCPS direct all schools under its jurisdiction to continue implementing curricula and instructional practices that affirm the identities of all students, foster critical thinking, and ensure that all children—regardless of race, gender identity, or background—have access to an education that reflects and respects their experiences; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the New York State Education Department, the New York City Department of Education, the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, the Governor of New York, and other relevant stakeholders in the fight for inclusive and equitable education.

This statement was duly adopted by Community Education Council 15 on March 25, 2025 by a vote of the members present, including: Antonia Ferraro Martinelli, Leslie King, Vanessa Gonzalez Ueoka, Nancy Cruz, Katina Rogers, Jonathan Davis, Kwame Egerton,

7 members voted Yes