



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 IN SUPPORT OF GENDER-AFFIRMING SCHOOLS AND OPPOSING THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 LETTER FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS CRAIG TRAINOR

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 on the basis of sex in educational institutions receiving federal funding, and federal courts and agencies have recognized that discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation constitutes sex discrimination under Title IX; and

WHEREAS, Acting Assistant Secretary Craig Trainor's September 16, 2025 letter to New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) and other districts alleging civil rights compliance issues grossly mischaracterizes and misinterprets NYCPS's Guidelines to Support Transgender and Gender-Expansive Students; and [1][2]

WHEREAS, the Trainor letter inaccurately suggests that students can freely 'move in and move out' of sex-segregated facilities merely by asserting a change in gender identity, an assertion that dismisses the lived realities of transgender and non-binary people and contradicts leading medical and psychological organizations that recognize gender identity as a deeply rooted aspect of self; for example, the American Medical Association has affirmed that trans and non-binary gender identities are normal variations of human identity and expression [3]; and

WHEREAS, such mischaracterizations and the related 'steps to obtain compliance' in the Trainor letter seek to ostracize students based on gender identity and are contrary to students' civil rights and to inclusive, evidence-based education; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Eric Adams has publicly suggested reviewing or changing NYC DOE's policies protecting transgender students, but Chancellor Melissa Avilés-Ramos has affirmed that these policies are lawful, protect students, and will remain in effect [4]; and

WHEREAS, NYCPS's Guidelines to Support Transgender and Gender-Expansive Students are consistent with and help effectuate the New York State Human Rights Law, as amended by the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), which protects students' rights to access facilities and programs consistent with their gender identity [5][6]; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department and other state authorities have affirmed the rights of transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive students in New York public schools, including their ability to access facilities, programs, and an educational environment that affirms their identities; and

WHEREAS, Chicago Public Schools (CPS), in its September 19, 2025 response to the Department's September 16 letter, stated that its mission, programs, and policies are in the best interests of Chicago's students, plainly comply with the law, and that the Department's abrupt process departed from its own procedures and denied CPS due process [7]; and

WHEREAS, New York City has invested in evidence-driven initiatives including Black Studies, the Hidden Voices curriculum, the LGBTQ+ curriculum, and other Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CRSE) programs, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, studies demonstrate that culturally responsive and gender-affirming approaches improve student outcomes, increase engagement, and foster safer and more supportive school environments for all students, particularly students of color and LGBTQ+ youth; 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 democratic society.

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that CEC15 strongly opposes Acting Assistant Secretary Craig Trainor's September 16, 2025 letter and any related federal efforts to revoke, rescind, or decrease federal funding for policies protecting and affirming the rights of transgender students; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that CEC15 reaffirms its commitment to providing culturally responsive and gender-affirming education in accordance with New York State law and guidance, and the legal rights of students under federal and state law; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that CEC15 calls on New York City Public Schools to firmly oppose the directives in the September 16, 2025 Trainor letter; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that CEC15 calls on NYCPS to direct all schools under its jurisdiction to continue implementing curricula and instructional practices that affirm the identities of all students, foster critical thinking; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that CEC15 calls on NYCPS to ensure that all children, regardless of race, gender identity, or background, have access to educational programming, athletic programming, and facilities that reflect and respect their experiences; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that CEC15 calls on NYCPS to continue to uphold the Guidelines to Support Transgender and Gender-Expansive Students as required by the New York State Human Rights Law and GENDA; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that CEC15 affirms its unwavering support for all students, regardless of gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, and commits to ensuring affirming, inclusive, and safe school environments where transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive students can thrive academically and personally.

Adopted this 30th day of September, 2025.

References

[1] NBC/AP coverage:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-politics-and-policy/trump-administration-hold-back-grant-s-nyc-chicago-fairfax-schools-tran-rcna233761>

[2] Chalkbeat coverage:

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2025/09/23/trump-administration-threatens-magnet-grant-funding-nyc-schools-eric-adams/>

[3] AMA statement on gender identity:

<https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/transgender%20nonbinary%20gender%20identity?uri=%2FAMADoc%2FHOD.xml-0-805.xml>

[4] Mayor Adams Vows to Challenge NYC School Policy:
<https://gothamist.com/news/mayor-adams-vows-to-challenge-nyc-school-policy-on-trans-students-bathroom-rights?>

[5] NYC DOE Guidelines:
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/policies-for-all/guidelines-on-gender>

[6] GENDA / NYS Human Rights Law: <https://dhr.ny.gov/genda>

[7] CPS Response Letter:
https://projects.chalkbeat.org/2025/uploads/CPS_Response_to_9_16_2025_MSAP_Letter.pdf

This Resolution was approved at a CEC15 Calendar Meeting held on September 30, 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.