



**COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK**

December 8, 2020

**RESOLUTION**

**CALLING ON GOVERNOR CUOMO AND NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATORS TO FULLY  
FUND THE CAMPAIGN FOR FISCAL EQUITY IN NEW YORK CITY**

The District 15 Community Education Council (CEC15) held a meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. After reviewing all the evidence and facts, CEC15 passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, for the reasons set forth below, CEC15 hereby resolves to call on Governor Cuomo and New York State Legislators to fully fund the Campaign for Fiscal Equity in New York City;

WHEREAS, the members of CEC15 present at this meeting consisted of Camille Casaretti, Antonia Ferraro Martinelli, Tia Schellstede, Bess Abrahams, Kimmerly Scott, Cateia Rembert, Jaime Ivan Banda, and Claudia Lechuga;

WHEREAS, in 2006 the NYS Court of Appeals found that in fact NYS was violating students' constitutional rights to a "sound, basic education" through its final court order;

WHEREAS, the final court order led to the 2007 statewide settlement of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case by committing to provide \$5.5 billion in Foundation Aid;

WHEREAS, more than 10 years after the court ruling, NYC public schools are still owed over \$1.1 Billion;

WHEREAS, the Contracts for Excellence law requires school districts to implement measures, such as class size reduction, to improve student outcomes;

WHEREAS, accountability measures have been put in place by the NYC Department of Education to track monies allocated to schools and expenditures, and that these reports<sup>1</sup> are accessible to the public via the schools.nyc.gov website;

WHEREAS, these accountability reports are available in various forms through Fair Student Funding Programming Details<sup>2</sup>, which include a Fair Student Funding Overview, School Specific Data, Annual

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/funding/funding-our-schools>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.nycenet.edu/offices/finance\\_schools/budget/DSBPO/allocationmemo/fy19\\_20/AM\\_FY20\\_FSF1.htm](https://www.nycenet.edu/offices/finance_schools/budget/DSBPO/allocationmemo/fy19_20/AM_FY20_FSF1.htm)

Allocation Summaries by District, and reports on Supplemental Funding allocated to each individual school along with budget summaries for expenditures;

WHEREAS, the NYC Department of Education also provides information annually through School Allocation Memorandums<sup>3</sup> by Category, which offer information not only for Fair Student Funding but provide information on Externally Restricted Funds, Internally Restricted Funds, Other Special Education Funds, Budget and Technical Adjustments, and School Allocation Memorandums sorted numerically;

WHEREAS, New York State School Transparency Forms are submitted to the State on an annual basis;

WHEREAS, New York State has created the guidelines<sup>4</sup> for the NYS School Transparency Forms, and the NYC Department of Education complies annually;

WHEREAS, students, particularly Black and Latinx students and students living in poverty have been disproportionately affected by the state's indifference to providing "a sound, basic education" for all and refusal to comply with CFE ruling;

WHEREAS, according to a report by the Alliance for Quality Education titled "CFE Derailed: The State of our Schools in the Wake of the 2016 State Budget and a Decade after the campaign for fiscal Equity"<sup>5</sup>, 30 out of 33 school districts where the overwhelming student population is Black and Latinx, have not received the money owed;

WHEREAS, in school year 2018-2019 more than 1,000 NYC public schools are not funded at 100% of the Fair Student Funding (FSF) formula largely because of the lack of funding from the State;

WHEREAS, to fund every school at 100% of the FSF will require \$750 million, without reduction in class size or provision of robust programming or adequate social emotional supports;

WHEREAS, for the past several years the City of New York committed additional resources to raise the floor for the FSF funding, so that no school is funded below 90%;

WHEREAS, Fair Student Funding cannot be made more equitable and responsive to the needs of our most vulnerable students without the funding owed to the students by the State;

WHEREAS, lack of CFE funding has had real impact on students through increased class sizes, elimination of programming such as art or music, advanced courses, after school programs and reduction in essential non-instructional personnel, such as guidance counselors;

WHEREAS, an achievement gap is a misnomer better defined as an opportunity gap; and

WHEREAS, we affirm that New York State has a constitutional responsibility to provide a "sound, basic education" for all, regardless of race, disability, language proficiency or zip code and must address the opportunity gap now.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/financial/financial-data-and-reports/school-allocation-memorandums>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nysed.gov/accountability/essa-accountability-designations>

<sup>5</sup>

<https://www.ageny.org/2016/06/20/cfe-derailed-the-state-of-our-schools-in-the-wake-of-the-2016-state-budget/>

The Community Education Council District 15, therefore,

**RESOLVES, that Education Council Consortium call on Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislators to fully fund the Campaign for Fiscal Equity distributed via the Foundation Aid Formula, to begin to address the opportunity gap that has caused a systemic impact on our schools' ability to provide a sound basic education for all children in the City of New York.**

cc:

The Honorable Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
The Honorable Mayor Bill de Blasio  
New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer  
New York City Public Advocate, Jumaane D. Williams  
New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
New York State Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie  
New York State Senator, Brian Benjamin  
New York State Senator, Robert Jackson  
Education Committee Chair, New York State State Senator Shelley Mayer  
Education Committee Chair, New York State Assembly Member Michael Benedetto  
New York City Education Committee Chair, New York State State Senator John Liu  
New York City Council Member and Education Committee Chair Mark Treyger  
New York City Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza  
Acting Deputy Chancellor of Community Empowerment, Partnerships, and Communications Adrienne Austin  
AQENY Legislative Director & Statewide Education Advocate Jasmine Gripper