



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

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May 4, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We hope that you are well, and appreciate many of the actions you have taken to protect us and minimize the spread of the novel coronavirus.

New York State Budget Director Robert Mujica recently said that New York schools should expect an announcement within the next two weeks of education budget cuts of up to 20%.

District 15 Community Education Council implores you not to cut New York's Education Budget.

The budget passed in early April already reduced the 4% annual average increase to 0%, and a significant proportion of NYC schools already receive less funding than they are owed under Fair Student Funding. Once schools reopen, funding will be needed by already struggling schools for additional measures of continued social distancing, hygiene products, deployment of trauma-informed professional staff, including guidance counselors, psychologists and social workers, and academic remediation for all of the 1.1 million students that the NYC Department of Education services.

Instead of imposing austerity, we expect the state to raise adequate sources of revenue. New York has often responded to crises by raising taxes on the rich--for example, 9/11 and the 2008 financial crash--and should do so now. The wealthiest 1% of New Yorkers currently pay a smaller percentage of their income in taxes than the poorest 20%. In California, the rich are taxed 5% more than the rich here. How can the state address its revenue shortage by leaving those with the highest income unaffected and taking away resources from children?

CEC15 opposes any and all cuts to the New York State Education Budget.

Signed,

Camille Casaretti

Camille Casaretti, CEC15 President

CC:

The Honorable Mayor Bill de Blasio

Senate Democratic Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Education Committee Chair, State Senator Shelley Mayer

New York City Education Committee Chair, New York State Senator John C. Liu

New York State Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie

Education Committee Chair, New York State Assembly Member Michael Benedetto

State Senator Zellnor Myrie

State Senator Kevin S. Parker

State Senator Velmanette Montgomery

State Senator Brian Kavanaugh

Member of Assembly Robert C. Carroll

Member of Assembly Felix W. Ortiz

Member of Assembly Jo Anne Simon

Member of Assembly Walter T. Mosley, III

New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer

New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

New York City Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza