

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.

Approved on February 8, 2022, the following resolution offers CEC15's position regarding funding for universal childcare.

February 8, 2022

Resolution in Support of Universal Child Care

Whereas, child care is a public good; and

Whereas, child care must be free and accessible by all residing in New York State; and

Whereas, access to free and quality childcare should not be conditional on a families' income or proof of income; and

Whereas, families should be empowered to choose the child care program that meets their children's needs; and

Whereas, child care teachers and providers must be compensated as their peers in public education; and

¹**Whereas**, child care for an infant or toddler could cost a family over \$2,600 a month or \$31,000 annually—this is more than the cost of college tuition at CUNY or SUNY; and

Whereas, sixty-four percent of New York State families live in a “child care desert,” where there are either no available child care providers or far too few providers to meet families' needs²; and

Whereas, particularly in areas like New York City, Westchester, and Long Island, real estate prices are unaffordably high, and landlords charge rents that prohibit child care providers from offering adequate care; and

Whereas, much of the child care workforce lives in poverty with “65% of child care providers receiv[ing] such low wages that they are eligible for several social safety net programs such as food stamps or Medicaid”³; and

¹ <https://www.nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/childcareourreport.pdf>

² Supporting Families, Employers & New York's Future: An Action Plan for a Strong and Equitable Child Care System: Final Report of the Child Care Availability Task Force. Accessed December 9, 2021, <https://ocfs.ny.gov/reports/childcare/Child-Care-Availability-Task-Force-Report.pdf>

³ <https://ocfs.ny.gov/reports/childcare/Child-Care-Availability-Task-Force-Report.pdf>

Whereas, the state must invest \$5 billion in the child care sector to ensure that families have access to child care, providers are compensated accordingly and a plan can be created to expand child care access to everyone who needs it; and

Whereas, investments in the child care sector should prioritize supporting our most marginalized children and families, **including but not limited** to families of color, families of children with special needs, low-income families, and undocumented families; therefore be it

Resolved, that this Community Education Council supports all efforts to provide universal child care to all children and families in the state; and be it further

Resolved, that this Community Education Council will be proactive in its efforts to promote and advocate for universal child care; and be it further

Resolved, that this Community Education Council urges the State legislature and the Governor to include an investment of \$5 billion for universal child care in the State budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

This Resolution was approved at a CEC15 Business Meeting held on February 8, 2022 by a vote of members present including: Camille Casaretti, Antonia Ferraro, Tia Schellstede, Nana-Poku Agyekum, Ivan Banda, Nancy Randall, Vincent Lu, Joseph Alexander and Alfred De Ingeniis.