



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

### **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT SUSPENSION OF 2021 NEW YORK STATE TESTS**

*Presented and Adopted at a CEC15 Calendar Meeting on August 25, 2020 by a unanimous vote.  
Members present included: Camille Casaretti, Antonia Ferraro, Tia Schellstede, Kimmerly Scott, Bess  
Abrahams, Cateia Rembert, Mark Bisard, Claudia Lechuga and Ivan Banda.*

WHEREAS, the pandemic, Covid-19, has wreaked havoc on communities in New York City, with over 23, 000 deaths so far, leaving countless people out of work, struggling and fearful;

WHEREAS, NYC students have suffered significant losses, including deaths of family members and friends and teachers, summer jobs; and have experienced a range of inadequacy with remote learning, and endured inequity in every area, including food insecurity and air quality, exacerbated by the pandemic;

WHEREAS, state tests, even before COVID, have not been effective in fairly assessing student acumen, or tailoring education to individual students;

WHEREAS, state tests have been used to justify shutting down schools and are no longer even required by the state for teacher evaluations due to successful activism on the part of parents, teachers, administrators, and students;

WHEREAS there are various alternatives to the state tests, which can effectively assess student learning;

WHEREAS the millions of dollars that the state spends on the tests can be put to astronomically better use considering all that is required now to reopen schools safely and equitably;

WHEREAS, the stress of worrying about the impact of a particular score can actually harm children and create a disincentive for learning and participation;

WHEREAS; now more than ever, teachers will need flexibility in what and how they teach, and to address the trauma of their students, without having to worry about the mostly rote learning that is required to get a high score on these multiple choice tests;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CEC15 calls upon Chancellor Carranza, Mayor De Blasio and Governor Cuomo to request a waiver from the Federal Government in order to suspend the 2021 State Tests. We believe that schools should spend time helping students make up for the education that they lost during the pandemic, acknowledge the trauma experienced by all, center the social emotional well-being of our students, and put equity at the forefront of decision making.**