



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 15

Office: 131 Livingston Street, Room 301, Brooklyn, New York 11201

CEC15@schools.nyc.gov | tel. 718-935-4267 | [facebook.com/CECD15](https://www.facebook.com/CECD15) | [CECD15.org](https://www.cecd15.org)

RESOLUTION TO RESTORE SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS AND BOLSTER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

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 August 23, 2022, the following resolution offers CEC 15's position regarding the restoration of School-Based Health Centers:

1. WHEREAS, School-Based Health Centers (hereby "SBHCs") are comprehensive primary care facilities licensed by the New York State Department of Public Health as outpatient or hospital satellite clinics on elementary, middle, and high school grounds.
2. WHEREAS, for the past 25 years, SBHCs have provided a wide range of physical, mental/behavioral, and oral health services and health education promotion activities designed to meet children's physical and psycho-social needs and youth across New York City.
3. WHEREAS, research shows that health problems disproportionately affect urban minority and low-income youth, affecting academic achievement and educational attainment. Thus, SBHCs are a vehicle for eliminating racial, ethnic, and economic health disparities in the communities that they serve.¹
4. WHEREAS, SBHCs are also a critical point of access to comprehensive health and preventative services for undocumented or uninsured students.²

¹ In New York State, seventy-six percent of students in schools with SBHCs receive medical services from these programs and approximately seventy-one percent of these students are Latinx or African-American. See SBHC Census Factsheet at <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/school/skfacts.htm>

² Rosado, Jacqueline, "School-Based Health Clinics and Student Outcomes in New York City Public Schools" (2022). Seton Hall University Dissertations and Theses (ETDs). <https://scholarship.shu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4083&context=dissertations>

5. WHEREAS, SBHCs promote students' well-being and address health issues that interfere with learning. They improve academic performance and graduation rates while promoting public health through higher vaccination rates. Additionally, SBHCs decrease school absenteeism and reduce the number of emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and complications from chronic illnesses.³
6. WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic generated a severe decline in primary, preventive, and mental health services delivered to youth, including 44% fewer child screening services and 44% fewer outpatient mental health services. This translates to immediate and lifelong health implications for students in schools where SBHCs are mismanaged, understaffed, or eliminated.⁴
7. WHEREAS, on July 29, 2022, SUNY Downstate abruptly ceased SBHCs operations at all sponsored Brooklyn clinics, which serve the following District 15 schools:
 1. William Alexander, M.S. 51
 2. Brooklyn New School, P.S. 146
 3. Brooklyn Secondary School for Collaborative Studies, M.S. 448
 4. The Pacific School, P.S. 38
 5. Boerum Hill School for International Studies, K497
 6. Digital Arts and Cinema Technology High School, K429
 7. Success Academy Cobble Hill
 8. Achievement First East New York Elementary School
8. WHEREAS, nurses have been removed from schools where SBHCs operated because SBHCs carry out functions that supersede the role of school nurses, who are limited to providing perfunctory services. Thus, by eliminating sponsored SBHCs in District 15, SUNY Downstate creates a health service vacuum that impacts even the most basic levels of care for students.

³ Id.

⁴ Sullivan E, Brey L, Soleimanpour S. School-Based Health Center Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Preliminary Study. *Health Promotion Practice*. 2021;22(5):616-621.

9. WHEREAS, NYC DOE assures that a nurse will be reassigned to all clinic locations, however; as excellent and essential that nurses are, they do not have diagnostic or prescriptive abilities, and as such their ability to care for students is limited to first aid, referrals and carrying out medical orders through submitted medical administration forms (MAFs).
10. WHEREAS, evidence suggests that SUNY Downstate has mismanaged SBHCs' resources, leading to unnecessary financial strains that can be cured through structural changes and effective leadership.⁵
11. WHEREAS, despite reasonable reliance to the contrary, SUNY Downstate failed to provide adequate notice of its decision not to renew contractual duties with the New York City Department of Education. Consequently, in a breach of standards of conduct in the medical profession, SUNY Downstate prevented engagement with other suppliers that could have effectively replaced its SBHCs for students to retain medical services, leaving our community with a significant deficit in students' health care.
- 12. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NYS and NYC elected officials will ensure that funding is available for SUNY Downstate to resume operations for all SBHCs' to immediately reopen until another sponsor is instituted;**
- 13. BE IT RESOLVED that all SBHC clinics must be fully staffed with essential staff members, including, but not limited to, health care providers, a social worker, and a medical office assistant;**
- 14. BE IT RESOLVED that adequate State grants and performance review methods must be made available to launch emergency reopening plans of SUNY Downstate-sponsored SBHCs;**
- 15. AND, BE IT RESOLVED that financial management review mechanisms be implemented immediately to ensure a transparent and accurate assessment of SBHCs' all previous and ongoing operational costs and establish subsequent fiscally responsible support plans.**

⁵ See State of New York, Office of the State Comptroller, Audit Report 2017-BSE01-01.
<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/state-agencies/audits/2018/02/14/examination-pitts-management-associates-pma?redirect=legacy>

CC:

NYS Gov
NYS DOH
NYS Commissioner
NYS Senate
NYS Assembly

NYC Mayor
NYC DOE Chancellor
NY City Council
NYC Commissioner
NYC DOH

SUNY Downstate CEO
SUNY Downstate CFO
SUNY Downstate President

This Resolution was approved at a CEC15 Calendar Meeting held on August 23, 2022 by a vote of members present including: Camille Casaretti, Nancy Randall, Vanessa Ueoka Gonzalez, Nakia Muhasa Brown, Antonia Ferraro, Joe Alexander, Nana-Poku Agyekum, Alfred DeIngeniis Tia Schellstede, and Vincent Lu.

The Resolution was voted YES by 10 members.