



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Resolution on Full Funding of the Foundation Aid Formula and Funding of Essential Operations In Public Schools

(Approved at the February 26, 2020 CEC3 Calendar Meeting by a Roll Call Vote of all CEC3 members present at the time of the vote (8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain))

Whereas, Community School District 3 (CSD3) of New York City Public Schools is located on the Upper West Side and Southern Harlem portions of Manhattan, and represented by Community Education Council, District 3 (CEC3), and

Whereas, CSD3 highlights dysfunction that exists within the funding structure for New York City Public Schools due to the demographic and economic make-up of its district relative to the highly segregated schools that operate within its district, coupled with the high concentration of charter schools in Harlem D3, and

Whereas, CEC3 joined as a plaintiff in the original Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit of 1996 on behalf of CSD3, has actively participated in advocacy efforts for adequate school funding in the years since, and

Whereas, New York State currently owes New York City Public Schools an estimated \$1.1 billion as a result of this legal ruling, which equates to \$1048 per pupil, and represents approximately 39% of the total owed to New York State schools of \$4 billion¹, and

Whereas, Governor Cuomo's proposed New York State budget does not fully fund the Foundation Aid formula rather proposed an education budget of \$28.55 billion, a 3% increase of \$826 million, from the 2019-2020 year. This budget, which includes an increase in Foundation Aid of only \$503.8 million, coupled with the consolidation of ten additional funding streams into the Foundation Aid total², means that high needs schools in New York City, and thus District 3, will continue to operate without full funding.

Whereas, over the last five years, CSD3 and CEC3 have implemented two major initiatives within the effort to repair institutional injustice and inequities in enrollment: the Upper West Side elementary rezoning and the Middle School Diversity Initiative. However, in the northern portions of CSD3, in Southern Harlem, disparities remain especially acute due to oversaturation of charter schools. Low enrollment in Harlem D3, therefore, perpetuates insufficient resource allocations, and

Whereas, Fair Student Funding, Foundation Aid, Resolution A funds, PTA and private grants, as well as other sources of funds complicate the ability of stakeholders to understand what income each school should have, and

Whereas, funding formulas themselves have proven not only to create confusion around the resources that schools need to operate, but they have also been shown to be less reliable as

¹ Alliance for Quality Education resource page: <https://www.aqeny.org/school-district-owed/>

² <https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy21/exec/local/school/2021schoolaid.pdf>

time has past. For example, the Foundation Aid formula has been using 13- year old demographic and economic data to tabulate figures³, and

Whereas, school funding based largely on the number of students enrolled in a school does not consider the minimal amount of funding a school organization needs to operate with all essential personnel and programs, including but not limited to special education service providers, social workers, guidance counselors, school nurses, librarians, and after school providers;

Be It Therefore Resolved That, CEC3 supports the call for legislation that mandates the full funding of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity in the New York State Legislative budget.

Be It Further Resolved That, CEC3 calls for a system of “Essential Operations” school funding that ensures that all operating public schools are able to employ essential personnel and offer essential programs that include but are not limited to School Principal, Parent Coordinator, Teachers, Aides, Social Worker, Guidance Counselor, School Nurse, Librarian, as well as sufficient support staffing as directed by grade structure, special educational services, language services, physical fitness, scholastic electives and afterschool programming.

³ <https://www.cityandstateny.com/articles/policy/education/three-questions-define-school-foundation-aid.html>