

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

154 West 93rd Street New York, New York 10025 - Room 204 Tel (212) 678-2782 Fax (212) 678-2804 Email: CEC3@schools.nyc.gov

Sharon Collins, ELL
Co-President

Jill Rackmill
Co-President

Vacant
Vice President

Ramata Sakho,
Treasurer

Vacant
Secretary

Kamar Samuels
Superintendent

Council Members:

Yael Denbo

Sharon Meiri Fox
IEP

Jon
Nassimi

Noah
Odabashian

Ana Maria
Quinones
Greenfield

Kristin Savov

Noah Strote

Philina Zhang
Student Member

Vacant
D75

June 23, 2025

We, members of the Community Education Council for District 3, urge our city and state elected officials to ensure that the Fostering Diverse Schools project led by the District 3 Superintendent's Office has sufficient financial support to meet its important goals

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Education awarded District 3 a \$7.5 million, five-year grant to address the disparities among our district schools. Like many districts across the city, state, and indeed the country, our children attend schools that fail to reflect the socio-economic, racial, and ethnic diversity of their larger community, and there is a troublingly high correlation between the percentage of students in economic need in a given school and that school's academic performance as measured by state tests in mathematics and English language arts. Unlike many of those districts, our superintendent's office has begun to implement an initiative that addresses the problem.

As the status of federal funding has become unstable, we want the City and State to be aware of the tremendous achievements of the district's initiative already in Year 2 of its 5-year plan. So far, these have included: the expansion of a successful robotics program into all twenty-nine schools; increased access to global language instruction (which has been shown to boost academic performance); the creation of a new secondary school that will offer an International Baccalaureate diploma; and teacher training programs designed to address the reading gap among early elementary school students.

Families in District 3 want to live in a place where children can attend a high-performing public school in their neighborhood regardless of their economic need, race, or ethnicity. Our district's Fostering Diverse Schools project works toward that vision, and we hope it will be supported to the greatest extent possible.

Respectfully,

CEC3