



# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

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March 2024

Dear friends,

On behalf of Advocates for Children of New York (AFC), we are delighted to share that we are very close to achieving our \$5 million fundraising goal for the **AFC Right to Learn Campaign!**

**Thanks to the generous support of 142 donors, we have raised more than \$4.75 million in private funding to date.** As you may recall, when we began this Campaign in 2021, NYC public school students had just returned to in-person learning after nearly 18 months of remote classes. The pandemic had disrupted the entire school system, making long-standing inequities even worse, particularly for the families AFC serves – those whose children were already struggling. Even as the extensive losses and prolonged school closures of the COVID-19 pandemic have receded further into the past, the academic and mental health effects on children have persisted.

Fortunately, your gift is already making a significant difference in the lives of New York City students facing daunting barriers to success in the New York City public schools. The Campaign has provided critical funding to sustain AFC's core services, including legal representation and individualized advocacy for more than 6,500 students and their families last year. We have used Campaign dollars also to expand our policy team to support, for example, our leadership of collective efforts to preserve important education programs and services – like classes for preschool students with disabilities and social workers to assist the growing number of students with mental health needs – that are being threatened by substantial budget cuts.

Over the next two years, the support you provided to the Right to Learn Campaign will position us to continue to advance education equity in New York City. We plan to add additional legal and advocacy staff, while building innovative partnerships that help us respond effectively to the evolving needs of New York's students and their families.

We are deeply grateful to you for joining us on this important initiative to fortify AFC to serve more students and their families in the future, and we look forward to closing the gap to meet our campaign goal in the months ahead. We aim to announce that we have reached our goal at our annual Spring Benefit on May 15th. We hope you will join us.

We thank the **AFC Board of Directors** for their unanimous support of the Campaign, our fellow **Right to Learn Campaign Committee members** for their stalwart guidance, and our donors whose gifts brought us to this exciting benchmark.

Thank you again for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Eric F. Grossman  
Campaign Co-Chair

Brian Friedman  
Campaign Co-Chair