



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

News Release

For Immediate Release

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October 5, 2023 (NEW YORK CITY) — Today, Kim Sweet, Executive Director of Advocates for Children of New York (AFC), issued the following statement in response to the New York City Council's passage of [Intro 857-A](#), expanding disaggregated data in New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) reporting to include metrics on students in foster care:

AFC thanks the New York City Council for passing Intro 857-A, amending existing public school reporting requirements to provide data on students in foster care. We are especially grateful to Council Member Rita Joseph, Chair of the Committee on Education, and her staff for championing this legislation and getting it across the finish line.

Youth in the foster system face significant educational [challenges](#): they are more likely to be suspended from school, are over-represented in segregated special education settings, and drop out of high school at more than quadruple the Citywide rate. For far too long, data showing these disparities have been hidden from public view — and the unique needs of students in foster care have been overlooked. Publicly reporting data on this population will shine a light on inequities and, most critically, help policymakers develop targeted solutions that ensure students in the foster system receive the support they need and deserve.

About Advocates for Children of New York (AFC)

Since 1971, Advocates for Children of New York has worked to ensure a high-quality education for New York students who face barriers to academic success, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, disability, race, ethnicity, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. AFC uses four integrated strategies: free advice and legal representation for families of students; free trainings and workshops for parents, communities, and educators and other professionals to equip them to advocate on behalf of students; policy advocacy to effect change in the education system and improve education outcomes; and impact litigation to protect the right to quality education and compel needed reform.