



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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April 25, 2024 (NEW YORK CITY) — *In response to the release of Mayor Adams' FY 2025 Executive Budget, the [Emergency Coalition to Save Education Programs](#) released the following statement:*

The FY25 Executive Budget takes a positive step forward by funding the continuation of critical education programs funded with expiring Federal stimulus funding.

New York City's students and families have been through extensive trauma and instability since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and throughout the reopening of schools. The pandemic exacerbated many education, health, and mental health disparities that existed long before COVID-19. As a result, the Federal government recognized the need for investments; unfortunately, those investments were time-limited. Educators, community-based organizations, and youth development advocates immediately raised concerns about the time-limited nature of the Federal funding and called on the State and City to preserve and sustain the many important education programs supported by Federal stimulus funds that were needed long before the pandemic and are still needed today.

The Emergency Coalition to Save Education Programs (ECSEP) came together to push for the preservation and sustainability of these programs. For the past year, ECSEP has worked with Speaker Adams' office and Council Member Rita Joseph, Chair of the Education Committee—as well as with parents, students, educators, and advocates—to elevate and organize around ECSEP's [Call to Action](#). We welcome the Mayor's announcement, committing \$514 million that will allow for the continuation of many programs that ECSEP prioritized and that benefit hundreds of thousands of students.

We are pleased that the City has committed to sustaining and baselining funding for 100 shelter-based coordinators to assist students who are homeless; bilingual education programs; nearly 500 school social workers and psychologists; programs to support students with dyslexia; enhancements for preschool special education programs; and more than 100 community schools—to highlight just a few key examples.

While we acknowledge and appreciate the Mayor's investment in these important supports for students, there are still several critical programs funded with temporary federal dollars at risk of being cut on June 30th, including Restorative Justice, Student Success Centers, certain preschool special education supports, and school nurses. Meanwhile, other programs received just a one-year reprieve, including 3-K and Learning to Work. Further, despite the restorations made, there are still harmful proposed cuts in City funding to some education programs such as 3-K. Finally, these financial supports do not address the expiring City funding for community schools, the Mental Health Continuum, and the immigrant family communications and outreach program.

As the budget process moves forward, ECSEP calls on the Mayor and Council to fully close the Federal stimulus funding gap and ensure the continuation of important programs that support students and school communities. The City's youth and families deserve nothing less.

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