



Coalition for Equitable Education Funding

BACKGROUND

The Fiscal Year 2026 city budget made significant investments to fund a number of important education programs that were at risk of being rolled back or eliminated due to expiring funds.

While many of these programs were funded long term, other program extensions and new initiatives were funded for one year only — meaning the funding will run out at the end of June 2026.

These initiatives, which are benefiting tens of thousands of NYC students and their families, are at risk of significant cuts or elimination:

- **Early childhood education programs:**
 - **Preschool special education services/evaluations** (\$70M)
 - **Infant/toddler (0-2) seats** in high-need communities (\$10M)
 - **Outreach on available early childhood education programs** (\$5M)
- **Summer programming** to provide students with recreational activities, arts, and field trips, in addition to academic enrichment (\$80M)
- **Learning to Work programs** to provide support to over-age, under-credited students to help them earn a high school diploma and develop a post-secondary plan (\$31M)
- **Sensory Exploration, Education & Discovery (SEED) programs** for students with intensive sensory needs (\$12M)
- **Restorative justice** to help students stay in school and resolve conflicts instead of being suspended (\$6M)
- **Mental Health Continuum** to provide mental healthcare to students at 50 schools (\$5M)
- **Immigrant family communications and outreach** to help families receive information about their child's school in a language and mode they can access (\$4M)
- **Student Success Centers** to allow trained youth leaders to build a culture of college-going and help their peers with the college admissions process (\$3.3M)

RECOMMENDATION

The City must immediately **baseline funding for these programs** so that students, families, educators, and providers will know that they can use these programs without the threat that they will be taken away. In addition, we urge the City to make significant additional investments that are needed to support students, with a focus on those who have the greatest needs.

For more information about the Coalition for Equitable Education Funding and the above recommendations, please visit <https://advocatesforchildren.org/ceef> or contact May DePierro, Policy Associate at Advocates for Children of New York, at mdepierro@afcnyc.org.