



Coalition for Equitable Education Funding

Testimony for New York City Council Committee on Education

Re: Fiscal Year 26 Preliminary Budget - Education

March 13, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the proposed budget. My name is Edward Sanchez. I am a CUNY political science student at Baruch College, a recent graduate of New York City public schools, and a youth leader at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York and the Coalition for Equitable Education Funding.

I am testifying today on behalf of the Coalition for Equitable Education Funding, a group of more than 120 organizations advocating for the resources needed to ensure every student receives a high-quality education, with a focus on those who need the most support.

While we appreciate that the Administration and the City Council made significant investments in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget to continue essential education programs that had been at risk of ending due to expiring funds, we are concerned that a number of these programs are currently funded for one year only—meaning the funding will expire at the end of June unless City leaders extend funding in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

Unless the City acts, here are some of the important education programs and services at risk of funding cuts:

- 3-K slots for thousands of young children (\$112M);
- Preschool special education classes for hundreds of young children with autism and other disabilities (\$55M);
- Extended day 3-K and Pre-K seats (\$25M);
- Outreach efforts to help ensure families are aware of early childhood programs (\$5M);
- More than 50 community schools to provide wrap-around support to students (\$14M);
- Restorative justice programs to help students stay in school and resolve conflicts instead of being suspended (\$12M);
- The Mental Health Continuum to provide mental healthcare to students at 50 high-need schools (\$5M);
- Immigrant family outreach to help ensure families receive information about their child's school in a language and mode they can access (\$4M);

- Student Success Centers to help students at more than 30 high schools prepare for college (\$3.3M);
- Arts programming for students (\$41M);
- High-impact tutoring to help students get support in reading and math (\$4M); and
- Teacher recruitment (\$10M).

We call on the City to provide long-term funding for these programs in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, so that students, families, educators, and providers will know that they can continue relying on these programs in future years, and to make additional investments that are needed to support students, especially those who have the greatest needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.