



## NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

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# 120 Organizations Call on Mayor Mamdani and the City Council to Restore Funding for Essential Education Programs

**June 8, 2026 (NEW YORK CITY)** — *Today, as the City Council prepares to hold its hearing on Mayor Mamdani's proposed education budget, the more than 120 organizations comprising the [Coalition for Equitable Education Funding](#) issued the following statement:*

While we appreciate that Mayor Mamdani's Executive Budget extends and baselines funding for several important education programs – preschool special education services, summer programming, Learning to Work, and early childhood education outreach – we are deeply concerned that it proposes to cut other essential programs that students and families across the City rely on.

Funding for the following programs is set to expire less than one month from today. Unless city leaders act and restore funding in the final budget, thousands of students and families will lose access to these critical programs.

- **Sensory Exploration, Education & Discovery (SEED)** provides small group support from occupational and physical therapists to students with intensive sensory needs. (\$8.5M)
- **Restorative justice** helps students stay in school, repair relationships, and resolve conflicts instead of being suspended. (\$6M)
- **Mental Health Continuum** provides expedited mental healthcare to students at 50 high-needs schools. (\$5M)
- **Immigrant family communications and outreach** helps families receive information about their child's school in a language and mode they can access. (\$4M)
- **Student Success Centers** allow trained youth leaders to build a culture of college-going and help their peers with the college admissions process. (\$3.75M)

Although funding for these programs is set to expire at the end of the school year, the need for these supports is not going away. We call on the Mayor and the City Council to commit to sustaining and baselining the funding for these programs as soon as possible. It's harder to

build and maintain high-quality programs that meet the needs of students, families, and school communities when nobody knows if the funding will still be there next year. We stand ready to work with city leaders to bring an end to this year-after-year fight.

Finally, while we want to make sure we do not lose programs that are already up and running, we know that merely restoring funding for existing supports is not sufficient to meet the needs of students. We also urge the City to make additional investments in the final budget needed to support students, with a focus on those who have the greatest needs.

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