



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 programs were funded for one year only — meaning the funding will run out at the end of June 2026 unless City leaders act to extend funding.

We are pleased that Mayor Mamdani's Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Budget extends and baselines funding for several more of these essential initiatives — preschool special education services, summer programming, Learning to Work programs, and early childhood education outreach.

However, the Executive Budget leaves out funding for other critical education programs that are currently benefiting thousands of NYC students and their families. The following programs are funded for this year only and are, therefore, at risk of being rolled back or eliminated as soon as this July:

- **Sensory Exploration, Education & Discovery (SEED) programs** for students with intensive sensory needs (\$8.5M)
- **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)
- **Infant/toddler (0–2) child care seats** in high-need communities (\$10M)

We appreciate that the City Council called for funding for these programs in its response to the Preliminary Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

We urge Mayor Mamdani and City Council to **restore and baseline funding for these programs** in the final FY 2027 budget so that students and families will continue to be able to benefit from these programs next year and beyond. 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.