



Coalition for Equitable Education Funding

October 22, 2026

The Honorable Zohran Mamdani
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Mamdani:

On behalf of the [Coalition for Equitable Education Funding \(CEEF\)](#), comprised of more than 120 advocacy organizations, civil rights organizations, social service providers, and groups representing students, parents, and educators, we are writing to urge you to **allocate and baseline funding in the November Financial Plan** for important education programs that are currently being self-funded by New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) and other agencies: **restorative justice, the Mental Health Continuum, immigrant family outreach, and Student Success Centers**.

We deeply appreciate that your Fiscal Year 2027 budget baselined funding for several essential education initiatives that had previously been funded with dollars set to expire in June 2026, including preschool special education services, summer programming, Learning to Work, and early childhood education outreach.

While we are pleased that the City also committed to continuing for this year the following four important education programs that had been funded only through June 2026, we are disappointed that this commitment was not accompanied by dedicated funding. Unlike prior years, when the City allocated additional resources specifically for these initiatives, agencies were required to find the funding within their existing budgets. Furthermore, the City has not made any guarantees about the continuation of these critical programs next year or beyond. Each of these programs helps advance the Chancellor's priorities of ensuring our schools are academically rigorous, safe, and truly integrated and that families are partners in their children's education.

- **Restorative justice (\$6M)**, which helps students stay in school while working to build and repair relationships and resolve conflicts instead of being suspended. In a [study](#) of the implementation of restorative practices in Chicago high schools, researchers found a 35% decline in student arrests in school, a 15% reduction in out-of-school arrests, an 18% decrease in out-of-school suspensions, and improved student-reported perceptions of school climate, such as increased feelings of belongingness and safety at school.
- **Mental Health Continuum (\$5M)**, an interagency partnership between NYCPS, Health + Hospitals, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

that helps students at 50 high-need schools in the Bronx and Brooklyn access mental healthcare through onsite school-based services, expedited appointments at city clinics, urgent care, and telehealth visits while in school or at home. The Mental Health Continuum also provides training to school staff to build their capacity to address student behavior. As one principal noted, the Mental Health Continuum “has had a significant impact on school safety and student well-being,” including leading to a 20% decrease in Online Occurrence Reporting System (OORS) reports at their school.

- **Immigrant family communications and outreach (\$4M)**, which helps strengthen NYCPS’ ability to effectively communicate with immigrant families. The parents of an estimated 69,000 NYC students do not speak English fluently *and* do not have broadband internet access at home. Many immigrant parents face significant barriers to accessing timely information about their children’s schools and how to access resources and programs, especially given that most NYCPS communication for families occurs online and via email. This funding helps NYCPS utilize multiple forms of communication to reach immigrant communities, which is particularly important at a time of increased fear and anxiety.
- **Student Success Centers (\$3.3M)**, which enable trained youth leaders to build a culture of college-going and help their peers with the college admissions process in around 30 schools, reaching more than 18,000 students. During the 2024-25 school year, 86% of students in Student Success Center (SSC) schools completed a college application, and 89% of students in SSC schools had a postsecondary plan upon graduating. NYCPS testified at a City Council hearing that SSC schools have seen 7-11% increases in postsecondary enrollment among their students.

Baselining funding for these programs is important for their long-term success and stability. When it comes to issues such as mental healthcare and approaches to family communication and school culture, continuity is essential. Students, families, and educators should not have to worry, year after year, about whether these programs will continue to exist. Funding programs for one year at a time makes it difficult to create long-term plans for successful implementation; it is harder to hire and retain staff or devote attention to program improvement.

In the November Financial Plan, we urge you to allocate funding for these programs for FY 27 and to baseline the funding so that students and families can continue to benefit from these programs for years to come. In addition, we urge the City to make additional investments that are needed to support students, with a focus on those who have the greatest needs.

Respectfully,
Coalition for Equitable Education Funding