



Coalition for Equitable Education Funding

Testimony for New York City Council Committee on Finance

Re: Fiscal Year 27 Executive Budget - Education

June 10, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the Executive Budget. My name is Gray Burce, and I am a senior at School of the Future High School. Today, I am testifying 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 have the greatest needs.

We are pleased that Mayor Mamdani's Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Budget continues funding for several important education programs that previously had funding set to expire this year. However, the Executive Budget leaves out funding for other critical education programs that are currently benefiting thousands of NYC students and their families and are funded only through this June. Unless funding is restored in the final budget this year, thousands of students will lose access to these programs.

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

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

We urge you to ensure that the final budget restores and baselines funding for these programs, so that students and families can continue relying on them next year and beyond. We also call on the City 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.