

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Nick LaLota  
The Honorable Andrew Garbarino  
The Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi  
The Honorable Laura Gillen  
The Honorable Gregory Meeks  
The Honorable Grace Meng  
The Honorable Nydia Velazquez  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
The Honorable Yvette Clarke  
The Honorable Daniel Goldman  
The Honorable Nicole Malliotakis  
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
The Honorable Adriano Espaillat

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
The Honorable Ritchie Torres  
The Honorable George Latimer  
The Honorable Michael Lawler  
The Honorable Patrick Ryan  
The Honorable Josh Riley  
The Honorable Paul Tonko  
The Honorable Elise Stefanik  
The Honorable John Mannion  
The Honorable Nicholas Langworthy  
The Honorable Claudia Tenney  
The Honorable Joseph Morelle  
The Honorable Timothy Kennedy

Dear House Minority Leader Jeffries and the New York delegation to the United States House of Representatives:

As organizations working with children and families across New York State, we are writing to express our grave concerns regarding the severe cuts to P-12 education funding included in the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill advanced out of subcommittee on September 2. We urge you to vocally oppose these harmful cuts to public education and to advocate to Congressional leadership that any spending agreement for Fiscal Year 2026 protect existing programs and funding streams.

As advocates, educators, service providers, parents, and students, we have seen the tremendous impact that targeted federal funding can have for students and school communities, particularly those with the greatest needs. As such, we strongly oppose the following provisions included in the FY 2026 House appropriations bill:

- **The roughly \$5 billion cut to Title I funding to support students from low-income backgrounds.** Every child in New York State deserves a quality education that prepares them for post-secondary success, regardless of their zip code or family background. The promise of public education is that access to opportunity should not be limited by the circumstances of birth, and Title I is the key mechanism by which the federal government attempts to level the playing field and fulfill this promise for young people from low-income families. Slashing the Title I allocation by more than 25%—a significant cut not included in the President’s budget or the bipartisan Senate bill—would harm schools that rely on this funding stream to provide academic intervention, social-emotional supports and services, summer and extended day programming, and much more.
- **The elimination of the Title III English Language Acquisition program.** New York currently receives approximately \$65 million in Title III funds to help provide instruction and services to the nearly 260,000 students Statewide who are learning English as a new

language. Investing in such students—who make up 22% of the student population in Rockland County, 16% in New York City, and 13% in Suffolk County—is in the State’s long-term economic interests. While many English Language Learners (ELLs) struggle to succeed in school, when they receive the support they need to become proficient in English, ELLs consistently demonstrate academic proficiency. For example, in 2024, 92% of New York State’s ever-ELLs—students who received ELL services earlier in their educational careers but had since achieved English proficiency—[graduated](#) high school on time.

- **The elimination of more than \$2 billion in Title II-A grants for teacher training and support**, roughly \$126 million of which flows directly to New York State. Districts use Title II-A funds for teacher and principal professional development as well as for initiatives to recruit and retain effective educators. During the 2023–24 school year, 26% of [teachers](#) in New York’s high-poverty schools had fewer than four years of experience teaching, while one in every five was teaching classes in subjects or fields for which they did not hold certification. Zeroing out funding for Title II-A would exacerbate ongoing teacher shortages and make it even more challenging for districts to ensure all children receive effective instruction from a qualified teacher.
- **The elimination of the full-service community schools grant program**, which enables schools to offer wrap-around supports and services—such as after-school programming, adult education classes, and medical, dental, and mental health care—to students and their families. Over the past five years, students in Auburn, Batavia, the Bronx, Buffalo, Fort Drum, Poughkeepsie, and Wayne County have [benefitted](#) from this grant program. The community schools model is one with proven effectiveness; in New York City, for example, one [study](#) found that community schools lowered rates of chronic absenteeism and boosted high school credit accumulation and graduation rates. Both nationally and in New York, [rates](#) of chronic absenteeism have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels—more than a quarter of the State’s students missed at least one out of every ten school days in 2023–24—making it especially critical to sustain effective programs that keep students in the classroom.
- **The elimination of preschool development grants**, which help improve access to high-quality early care and education for children from birth through age five. New York State currently has an \$11 million [grant](#) through this program.
- **A \$49 million cut to the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR)**. OCR needs to have the ability to appropriately investigate and address complaints from students and their families, including the many complaints about discrimination against students with disabilities—complaints that come from all corners of the country and from parents of every political orientation.

Public schools are the lifeblood of a healthy democracy. We urge you to reject the proposed cuts to education funding and instead invest in the future of New York State: our students.

Respectfully,

Advocates for Children of New York  
Alcott School  
Alliance for Quality Education (AQE)

Apex for Youth  
Arab American Family Support Center  
Asians Fighting Injustice  
Belongó  
Birch Family Services  
Bronx Arts Ensemble  
Bronx Developmental Disabilities Council  
BronxWorks  
Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled  
Brooklyn On Fun Association  
CAMBA Inc.  
Caribbean Equality Project  
Center for Family Life in Sunset Park, Inc.  
Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York  
The Child Center of NY  
The Children's Agenda  
Children's Aid  
Children's Defense Fund-New York  
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)  
The Circle Keepers  
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York  
Class Size Matters  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families  
The Coalition for Community School Excellence  
Coalition for Equitable Education Funding  
The Collaborative for Inclusive Education  
Committee for Hispanic Children & Families (CHCF)  
Community Inclusion & Development Alliance  
Community Resources Staten Island  
Council Of Peoples Organization  
Counseling In Schools, Inc.  
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation  
Damayan Migrant Workers Association  
Dancewave  
Dignity in Schools Campaign – NY  
DreamYard Project, Inc.  
ECE On the Move  
EdTrust-New York

Education Council Consortium (ECC)  
Educators for Excellence – New York  
Empire State Campaign for Child Care  
ExpandED Schools  
Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project  
Four Freedoms Democratic Club  
FPWA  
Global Kids  
Goddard Riverside Community Center  
Grand Street Settlement  
The Guild for Exceptional Children  
Henry Street Settlement  
Homecrest Community Services  
Hudson Guild  
Huntington Family Centers  
Immigrant Social Services (ISS)  
INCLUDEnyc  
InterAgency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies, Inc.  
Jahajee: Indo-Carribbeans for Gender Justice  
JCCA  
Jewish Community Center of Staten Island, Inc.  
Kennedy Children's Center  
Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI)  
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center  
The Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.  
Liftoff Western New York  
Literacy in Community  
Make the Road New York  
Marie Pense Center  
Metropolitan Asian Deaf Association  
Metropolitan Parent Center  
Mouse  
Muslim Community Network  
NAACP NYS Conference  
New York State Alliance for Children with Special Needs  
New Alternatives for Children  
New York Appleseed  
New York Center for Child Development

New York Center for Interpersonal Development, Inc.  
New York Edge  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Inc. (NYLPI)  
New York Performance Standards Consortium  
New Yorkers United for Child Care  
The Noel Pointer Foundation  
NYC Arts in Education Roundtable  
NYC Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
The Opportunity Hub  
The Opportunity Network  
Parents for Inclusive Education  
Parents Supporting Parents NY  
Partnership with Children  
Phipps Neighborhoods  
Queens Community House-Childcare Network  
Red Hook Initiative  
Rivendell School  
Rochester LACE Inc.  
Sakhi for South Asian Survivors  
SCAN-Harbor, Inc.  
School Settlement Association  
SCO Family of Services  
Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach, Inc.  
Small Wonder Preschool, Inc.  
South Asian Youth Action (SAYA)  
Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers, Inc.  
Southwest Area Neighborhood Association, Inc.  
St Nicks Alliance & School Settlement  
SteppingStone Day School  
SuriCo  
Syracuse Northeast Community Center  
Tea Arts & Culture  
Team First, Inc.  
Therapy and Learning Center  
Together in Dance  
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc.  
United for Brownsville

United Neighborhood Houses  
United Way of New York City  
Volunteers of America-Greater New York  
Wediko, NY @ The Home for Little Wanderers  
Westcott Community Center  
WHEDco  
Women For Afghan Women  
Woodside On The Move Inc.  
YMCA of Greater New York  
The Young Women's Christian Association of Queens  
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