



# Coalition for Equitable Education Funding

**Testimony for New York City Council  
Committee on Education and Committee on Finance  
Re: Fiscal Year 26 Executive Budget - Education  
May 20, 2025**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. My name is Edward Sanchez. I am a CUNY political science student at Baruch College, a recent graduate of New York City public schools, and a youth leader at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York and the Coalition for Equitable Education Funding.

I am testifying today 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 need the most support.

We are pleased that the Fiscal Year 2026 Executive Budget includes long-term funding for a number of important education programs that had been at risk of cuts due to expiring city funding including 3-K, preschool special education classes, arts programming, community schools, tutoring, and more.

However, the Executive Budget leaves out Student Success Centers (\$3.3M) entirely, so this program is still at risk of being eliminated as soon as July. Student Success Centers train and support youth leaders on how to guide their peers through the college admissions process, providing crucial support to students at more than 30 high schools.

Additionally, the Executive Budget leaves several important programs without long-term funding, opting instead to extend their funding for one year only—creating uncertainty for the communities they serve.

Programs that received funding for one more year only and are, therefore, at risk of cuts in 2026, include:

- Summer programming to provide students with recreational activities, arts, and field trips, in addition to academic enrichment (\$80M);
- Learning to Work programs to provide support to over-age, under-credited students to help them earn a high school diploma and develop a post-secondary plan (\$31M);
- Restorative justice programs to help students stay in school and resolve conflicts instead of being suspended (\$6M);
- The Mental Health Continuum to provide mental healthcare to students at 50 schools (\$5M);
- Outreach efforts to help ensure families are aware of early childhood programs (\$5M);

and

- Immigrant family outreach to help families receive information about their child's school in a language and mode they can access (\$4M).

We call on the City to baseline funding for these programs in the final Fiscal Year 2026 budget and make additional investments that are needed to support students, especially those who have the greatest needs.

The coalition thanks the City Council for your strong support in continuing essential education programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.