



## COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

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### **Resolution #146 to Demand Expanded Access to Internet Service for All New York City Families**

The Community Education Council of District 30 (hereafter referred to as CEC 30) is a group of parents and community members who have been elected or appointed to serve Astoria, Corona, East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and beyond, representing thousands of public school students and their families. This resolution joins together councils across New York City to demand our elected officials address the significant need for expanded access to affordable internet service for families enrolled in both blended and remote learning this year.

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) closed its school buildings as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 16th, 2020; and

WHEREAS, all public schools were required to transition to remote learning for the remainder of the school year 2019–2020; and

WHEREAS, the City of New York negotiated free internet access through the end of the school year 2019–2020 for families who needed an internet connection and the DOE provided free internet enabled iPads to families in need of devices; and

WHEREAS, some internet providers required families to subscribe long term for temporarily free internet, putting families at risk of receiving invoices after the free period unless families take the initiative to cancel; and

WHEREAS, even though the City of New York and the DOE took measures to close the digital divide, thousands of students struggled to participate in remote learning meaningfully for digital technology-related reasons, such as insufficient bandwidth, unstable connections, and delays to service initiation; and

WHEREAS, regardless whether students are participating in a blended learning plan or a fully remote learning plan for the school year 2020–2021, most District 30 students will spend the majority of their school time remotely, and every student will be required to participate in remote learning; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the reopening plan, caregivers of public school students will continue to receive necessary communication from school and central DOE via digital means, requiring these caregivers to have access to reliable internet connection for essential and critical information related to their children's education; and

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Indeed it is the only thing that ever has. ~Margaret Mead*

WHEREAS, internet connectivity is an essential service, much like electricity and water, and should be available to all as a public utility; and

WHEREAS, in January 2020 the City of New York released the [NYC Internet Master Plan](#), which promises to deliver universal high speed broadband to all New Yorkers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of New York should expedite the implementation of the NYC Internet Master Plan; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of New York should prioritize installation of high speed broadband infrastructure in public housing and in neighborhoods whose median wealth is below the citywide median wealth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DOE should renegotiate free internet subscriptions with internet and cellular service providers for the entirety of the school year 2020–2021, including the summer of 2021, regardless of the possibility of full school reopening in spring 2021.

**Unanimously Approved September 15, 2020**

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