



## COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

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### RESOLUTION #150

#### CALLING FOR FULLY FUNDING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS fifteen years after the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case was settled, New York City schools are still owed \$1.1B<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided New York State with \$1.037B specifically for education for the current State fiscal year<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS instead of increasing overall education funding with federal dollars, the Governor supplanted education funding by reducing the State contribution by \$1B statewide<sup>3</sup>, just when schools needed more resources to meet the greater needs arising from the pandemic; and

WHEREAS in December 2020 the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA Act) was signed into law, which will provide \$4B to New York State for education purposes<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS there is no clause in the CRRSA Act that prohibits supplantation, thus, making it possible for the Governor to again reduce the State share of the education funding; and

WHEREAS the pandemic has greatly increased resource needs in our public schools:

- Reliable internet connectivity and digital devices for students and classrooms will continue to require resources.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aqeny.org/school-district-owed/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nysed.gov/news/2020/state-education-department-announces-process-local-educational-agencies-apply-12-billion#:~:text=The%20CARES%20Act%20provides%20%2430.75,and%20respond%20to%20the%20coronavirus.&text=%E2%80%9CThis%20federal%20funding%20is%20imperative.recovering%20and%20moving%20forward%20safely.%E2%80%9D>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cityandstateny.com/articles/policy/education/new-york-state-budget-deal-may-cause-nyc-other-districts-tighten-their>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nysed.gov/memo/coronavirus/federal-coronavirus-response-and-relief-supplemental-appropriations-act-2021-crrsa>

- More teachers are needed for socially distanced in-person teaching and for managing multiple cohorts of students in blended and fully remote learning without unacceptable class sizes.
- School personnel will continue to require Personal Protective Equipment at least until the herd immunity is achieved.
- There is a significant and immediate need for counselors and social workers in every school to address the trauma experienced by students as well as school staff.

WHEREAS now more than ever our students need more resources to begin healing and recovering from the pandemic, let alone make up the learning losses; and

WHEREAS there were several bills to increase revenues passed by the Senate but vetoed by the Governor during the last session; and

WHEREAS while many New Yorkers face eviction, job loss, food insecurity and no health care as a result of the pandemic, billionaire New Yorkers have increased their wealth by tens of billions of dollars<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS a coalition of organizations has introduced a comprehensive set of revenue bills, which, if enacted, will raise enough revenue to fill the State's fiscal gap.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Community District Education Council 30 (CDEC30) urges the Governor and the State Legislature not to supplant State education funding with federal stimulus money;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CDEC30 urges the State legislature and the Governor to fully fund the Foundation Aid with State funding;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CDEC30 urges the State legislature and the Governor to pass revenue bills that will make our tax code more progressive and equitable.

VOTED AND APPROVED: February 9, 2021

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<sup>5</sup><https://public-accountability.org/report/the-great-pandemic-wealth-divide-billionaires-thrive-in-new-york-state-as-working-people-suffer/>