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Hello. My name is Annawa Naing and I am a second-grade teacher at PS/IS 78 in Long Island City, Queens.

I am here today because the current Foundation aid formula does not adequately fund intervention services or services for special needs children.

Not at my school and not at hundreds of other public schools across New York City.

I have more than 700 students in my school in pre-k through 8th grade.

We have no budget for intervention services. At one point it was standard - expected - to have staff dedicated to working with children who were struggling with reading or math in addition to the classroom teacher.

At my school, we don't have the budget for intervention teachers. I will have 32 second-graders in my classroom in the fall. My job and passion are to give each student what they need to achieve. But there is not enough time in the school day to do this in a class of 32. This is mind boggling to me as an educator when the City just adopted "Science of Reading" curriculum and the biggest push is for students to learn how to read. If the Chancellor wants all students to read by adopting a new reading curriculum, it is important for teachers to get all the support and resources they need for this to be successful. Having an intervention reading teachers for ALL schools will help students who need extra support.

In addition, how about fully funding a special education teacher in an ICT classroom even when you don't have 60/40 ratio? How can a school receive a budget for HALF a teacher because an ICT class might not have a full 40% of special education students? How is this fair to our most vulnerable students that need support from a full-time special education teacher?

And Last, We only have one guidance counselor for the entire school. What happened to all the guidance counselors and social workers the mayor promised us after Covid?

Thus, We must fund schools to meet the needs of the children not fund them based on an outdated formula.