

# Community Education Council District 28

## *Title: Resolution to Advocate for the Revision of the Foundation Aid Formula to Equitably Support Students with Disabilities*

**Sponsor: Quentin Mezetin**

**Co-Sponsors: Vijah Ramjattan, Simone Dornbach, Tanya Wendt, Nurun Swapna, Kalyanaram Gurumurthy, Nathifa Lewis, Lauren Clavin, Yutao Cheng**

**Whereas**, public education is the cornerstone of our democracy and remains the best path to advancing equal opportunity at a time of deepening inequality;

**Whereas**, adequately and equitably funding our public schools to meet the diverse needs of students is essential to ensuring their success and our shared prosperity;

**Whereas**, the current Foundation Aid formula weights all students with disabilities equally, regardless of their classification or the number of services they require;

**Whereas**, this uniform weighting means that a child who needs only a speech therapist is funded at the same level as a child who requires multiple services, including speech, occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), counseling, and a 1:1 paraprofessional;

**Whereas**, this funding approach creates significant challenges for schools in hiring the necessary staff to serve our students with disabilities, leading to massive caseloads for existing service providers and prolonged vacancies in special education positions;

**Whereas**, the current formula results in delays in assessments, gaps in services, and places an undue burden on families who must fight to ensure their children receive the services they are entitled to;

**Whereas**, the state's fiscal circumstances should not determine the resources allocated for educating our children, as underfunding public education is not an option;

**Whereas**, it is imperative that the Foundation Aid formula is updated to reflect the true cost of educating students today, particularly those with disabilities, students in temporary housing, and students living in poverty;

**Resolved**, that the Community Education Council of District 28 calls upon the Mayor, the New York City Department of Education, state legislators, and the Governor of New York to prioritize the revision of the Foundation Aid formula;

**Resolved**, that any modifications to the Foundation Aid formula should include safeguards that maintain flexibility in funding allocations, allowing schools to address the specific needs of their students while ensuring that those with higher needs receive adequate resources;

**Resolved**, that strict accountability measures should be put in place to prevent the misuse of differentiated funding and ensure that services are prescribed based on students' actual needs, with the goal of integrating them into general education when appropriate;

**Resolved**, that the revised funding model should protect against the selective enrollment of students based on their funding potential, ensuring equitable access to education for all students, regardless of the level of services they require;

**Resolved**, that the Community Education Council of District 28 urges the Governor, the Mayor, and state legislators to ensure that every public school receives the funding necessary to prepare all students for success, thereby securing a just and prosperous future for all New Yorkers;

**Resolved**, that the Governor of New York is urged to include these critical revisions in the state budget, following the passage of necessary legislation by the New York State Senate and Assembly, to ensure that public education is adequately and equitably funded;

**Be it further resolved**, that this resolution be shared with the New York City Department of Education, state legislators, the Governor of New York, and other relevant stakeholders to advocate for immediate action on this critical issue.