



Dear Community Education Council 28,

We appreciate your continued engagement and advocacy on behalf of New York City Public Schools (NYCPS). We share your priority of supporting students with disabilities and ensuring they have the best educational experience possible, as well as your focus on the importance of the State updating the Foundation Aid Formula. We appreciate your work on the issue.

Governor Hochul announced in April that the Rockefeller Institute would be spearheading a study and recommendations to update the state Foundation Aid formula in next year's budget. This is good news; Foundation Aid is a critical funding stream that supports various programming and student populations across the City, and it has not been substantially reviewed in decades. During that time, the State's support for educational costs in NYCPS schools has decreased. In 2002, New York City and New York State evenly split the non-federal cost of education in NYCPS schools. Today, however, the City supports 57% of the cost, and the State only 37%.

In July, NYCPS testified publicly at the Rockefeller Institute hearing to share how Foundation Aid dollars have been critical to supporting our schools, and to make a series of recommendations to improve the formula and ensure the State is adequately funding education. These recommendations included:

- € Revisiting the Successful School District model underlying the formula
- € Providing additional support for students in temporary housing and students in the foster care system
- € Reviewing and increasing weights for special education students and English Language Learners
- € Reviewing and updating the regional cost indices
- € Designating dollars specifically to support class size reduction

Consistent with your letter, our recommendation on special education weights to more fully and fairly serve all learners also noted that currently, under the State's formula, special education students all receive the same weight regardless of need. We recommended increasing the weights overall to better support our over 200,000 students with disabilities. We know that with adequate funding, we could expand our best-in-class specialized programming, such as our renowned autism programs, to support every student based upon their individual needs.

We look forward to continuing to partner with you and your CEC to advocate to the State for these recommendations to best support our students.

Thanks,

Emma Vadehra
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Chancellor for Operations & Finance