



Dear Community Education Council 28,

Thank you for your “Resolution Opposing Islamophobia.”

We find ourselves at a challenging moment for our city, country, and world. We agree that hate or harassment of any kind is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our schools. No member of our community should ever feel in danger or attacked for who they are.

As the conflict in the Middle East continues and reports of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and related hate crimes rise, our senior leadership team has been meeting with educators, families, students, and community leaders across multiple backgrounds and areas of expertise. The input and feedback shared in those meetings informed the plan that the Chancellor recently announced for meeting this moment. The plan focuses on three categories of work: safety, education, and continued engagement.

- **Safety:** We announced details about how we are further supporting principals and school staff to prioritize safety in their school communities, such as additional trainings on identifying bullying and harassment, documenting incidents, and applying the Discipline Code. On March 13th, all of our principals received comprehensive safety training on applying the Discipline Code, uplifting our Respect for All anti-bullying program, and crisis de-escalation.
- **Education:** It is also critically important to remember our schools' role in society: to build the leaders of tomorrow. The way through this moment is not to bury our heads in the sand. We must educate, engaging our students in difficult discussions and teachable moments. Based on feedback from our staff, families, and communities over the past few weeks, it is clear we have more work to do in supporting educators to lead these conversations. Recently, we announced more resources for schools on this topic, including an anti-hate crime curriculum created in collaboration with the Mayor’s Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes. We will also be building two new Hidden Voices curricula on the Jewish and Muslim American communities. On March 13th, all of our middle and high school principals received training from Facing History and Ourselves as well.

- **Engagement:** Finally, but importantly, we will continue to listen and engage, and the Chancellor's newly formed Interfaith Advisory Council has begun holding regular meetings.

Again, I want to thank you for your resolution, which aligns with our own commitment to and plan for fostering respect, inclusion, and empathy in our school system and standing against bigotry and hate. More updated information about the plan is available at <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/news/announcements/2024/05/01/new-york-city-public-schools-continues-to-meet-the-moment>.

We look forward to your continued partnership in the weeks and months ahead as we meet this challenging moment.

Sincerely,

Daniel Weisberg
First Deputy Chancellor