

Community Education Council 19
Resolution in Support of Fully Funding the Foundation Aid Formula with Key Changes

WHEREAS, Foundation Aid is the largest source of funding from New York State (NYS) to New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) and school districts across the State and is distributed through a (per) student funding formula; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation Aid formula was intended to ensure school districts have the resources needed to provide students with a sound basic education and to ensure equitable distribution of funding to districts around the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, following years of advocacy, Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature fully funded the Foundation Aid per pupil funding formula for the first time in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the formula itself is currently outdated, remaining mostly unchanged since it was first adopted in 2007, using certain data from more than 15 years ago, and failing to account for growing student needs and costs; and

WHEREAS, the limited changes made in the final NYS Fiscal Year 2026 budget resulted in New York City schools receiving \$314 million less than they would have received had the State made no changes to the formula at all; and

WHEREAS, this shortfall is largely due to an update to the poverty-weight without updates to other key measures—a poverty weight that relies on the grossly inadequate federal poverty guidelines, measuring poverty the same way in every school district across New York, even though costs look very different in different parts of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the formula's Regional Cost Index (RCI) is supposed to account for the varying costs throughout the State, but the values for most regions have not been updated since 2006; and

WHEREAS, it is becoming increasingly difficult for families to be able to afford to live in NYC, and the formula has not been updated to help school districts pay for increased wages and growing costs and expenses; and

WHEREAS, last school year, more than 154,000 NYC students experienced homelessness. Students experiencing homelessness, as well as students in foster care, face significant barriers to education, but the formula provides no additional funding to help school districts meet their unique educational needs; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Education Council District 19 will continue to advocate and keep our community informed of events and opportunities for advocacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Education Council District 19 calls on Governor Hochul and the NYS Legislature to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula with key changes, including an update to the RCI and an added per-pupil weight for students in temporary housing and students in foster care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Education Council District 19 calls on Governor Hochul and the NYS Legislature to make additional updates and changes to the formula to ensure that it meets the needs of today's schools and students, including students who need additional support to succeed in school.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the above resolution was unanimously voted and passed on March 11, 2026 by the following Community Education Council of District 19 members: Joyce French, Kimberly Washington, Kimberly Ford, Evelyn Pugh, Tion Prescott, Krissy Garcia, Shandale Franklin, Simone Phillips-Webster and Amber Lewis.