



## Community Education Council 24

Public School 71 - Forest  
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### Resolution No. 186

## Resolution in Support of Extending Hold Harmless Funding for NYC DOE Schools

**Sponsor: Matthew Crescio. CEC24 President**

**Co-Sponsor: Kate Barvels, Manisha Jain and Gina Liberta**

**Whereas**, New York City Public Schools (NYC DOE) currently serve approximately 912,064 students across 1,596 district schools (not including 274 charter schools serving an additional ~146,000 students);

**Whereas**, since 2020–2021, the DOE has implemented a “hold harmless” or “register relief” policy, preventing schools from losing critical Fair Student Funding (FSF) when enrollment declines;

**Whereas**, in FY 2023, approximately 1,166 schools – or nearly three-quarters of all DOE schools – were projected to face steep funding reductions due to enrollment losses, totaling \$469 million, but these losses were offset by hold harmless funding, allowing schools to sustain educational programming;

**Whereas**, schools used hold harmless resources to preserve essential supports such as Social Emotional Learning staff, after-school and extended-day programs, outreach in underserved areas, upgraded OPT rooms and equipment to meet IEP mandates, and enrichment programs that demonstrably improved student outcomes;

**Whereas**, schools in high-need communities, serving large numbers of English Language Learners (ELLs), Students with Disabilities (SWDs), and students in poverty, have been disproportionately protected by hold harmless, without which they would face devastating program and staffing losses;

**Whereas**, delaying communication about the continuation of hold harmless funding denies principals, district leaders, and parent stakeholders the ability to responsibly plan, budget, and maintain programs for future academic years;

**Whereas**, Chancellor Avilés-Ramos has stated that school funding must remain stable so that “funds are needed for our students” and that principals should have certainty in their budgets to continue providing the supports that help students thrive

**Therefore, be it Resolved**, that Community Education Council 24 (CEC24) strongly urges the NYC Department of Education to extend hold harmless funding through the entirety of the 2025-2026 school year, ensuring that no school faces a reduction in Fair Student Funding due to enrollment declines;

**Be it Further Resolved**, that DOE begin immediate, transparent conversations with principals, superintendents, and parent leaders regarding school budgets for the 2026-2027 school year, so that schools are given sufficient time to responsibly prepare, hire, and budget without uncertainty;

**Be it Further Resolved**, that CEC24 requests that DOE and the Chancellor’s office publish a district-by-district impact report on how hold harmless funding has been used – identifying which programs were preserved or created, and correlating these investments with student outcomes – to demonstrate the policy’s value and necessity;

**Be it Further Resolved**, that the DOE integrate hold harmless funding as a baseline commitment in school budgets, rather than a discretionary or last-minute relief measure, so that school leaders can plan with confidence and equity across all districts is upheld.

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### **Formal Asks**

#### **CEC24 formally asks:**

1. Mayor Eric Adams to commit the necessary resources in the City budget to guarantee that every DOE school will be held harmless through the 2025-2026 school year;
2. Chancellor Avilés-Ramos to ensure schools, superintendents, and parent leaders are informed before October 31, 2025 of DOE’s long-term budget planning for FY 2026-2027, so that schools are not left in crisis planning after the year begins;

3. Both the Mayor and Chancellor to recognize that nearly three-quarters of DOE schools would face destabilizing cuts without hold harmless, and to embed this funding policy into the City's educational vision so that no child's education is diminished because of enrollment fluctuations.

Resolution 186 was adopted and approved at the October CEC24 meeting on October 28, 2025 at Public School 68 by all CEC24 members.