



Community Education Council 24

Public School 71 Forest

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RESOLUTION NO. 205

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CURSIVE WRITING IN DISTRICT 24

Sponsored by: Matthew J. Crescio, President, CEC24

WHEREAS, Community Education Council District 24 (CEC24) represents the elected voice of parents and families throughout District 24 and advocates for educational opportunities that provide every child with the fundamental skills necessary for success in school and everyday life; and

WHEREAS, New York State Education Law §3204 recognizes writing as a required subject of instruction, and cursive handwriting has historically been an important part of the education provided to generations of students; and

WHEREAS, neuroscience research has demonstrated that handwriting engages brain networks associated with learning, movement, and sensory processing, while additional research has shown that handwriting experience supports letter recognition and early literacy development, reinforcing the importance of handwriting in cognitive development;^{1 2} and

WHEREAS, cursive handwriting builds upon foundational writing skills by developing coordinated hand movements, connected letter formation, and written fluency; and

WHEREAS, CEC24 believes that every child attending a District 24 school should, at a minimum, be taught to recognize and read cursive handwriting, develop a legible personal signature, and have the opportunity to write in cursive; and

WHEREAS, the ability to read handwritten materials and independently sign one's

name remains an important life skill when completing official documents, identification forms, and other personal and legal paperwork; and

WHEREAS, the continued use of personal signatures in official identification and verification procedures demonstrates why students should be taught this practical skill before entering adulthood; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, New York City Public Schools, under then-Chancellor Carmen Fariña, supported cursive writing instruction beginning in Grade 3, demonstrating that this is an established educational practice rather than a new instructional concept; and

WHEREAS, while computers, tablets, and digital literacy are essential components of modern education, technology should complement rather than replace fundamental handwriting skills; and

WHEREAS, the parents represented by CEC24 believe that teaching children to read and write cursive is a basic and reasonable educational expectation that should not depend upon which District 24 school a child attends; and

WHEREAS, CEC24 believes District 24 has an opportunity to demonstrate educational leadership by preserving this fundamental skill through clear districtwide instructional guidance incorporated into the District Comprehensive Education Plan (DCEP);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Education Council District 24, representing the parents and families of District 24, calls upon Superintendent Anthony Rivera and the District Leadership Team to incorporate cursive handwriting instruction for students in Grades 3–8 into the **District 24 Comprehensive Education Plan (DCEP)** as a districtwide educational priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DCEP establish clear instructional guidance ensuring that all District 24 schools provide cursive writing instruction beginning in Grade 3, including uppercase and lowercase letters, connected writing, reading cursive handwriting, and developing a personal signature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that students in Grades 4 and 5 continue developing cursive handwriting proficiency, with the goal that students can independently recognize and read cursive writing, sign their names, and produce legible cursive handwriting by the completion of elementary school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that students in Grades 6 through 8 continue to reinforce and apply cursive writing skills through existing classroom instruction,

including English Language Arts, Social Studies, note-taking, historical documents, and practical written communication; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DCEP provide appropriate instructional guidance, educational resources, and consistent expectations for District 24 schools to incorporate cursive handwriting without replacing required academic subjects or digital literacy instruction; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that CEC24 requests Superintendent Anthony Rivera and the District Leadership Team present a plan for including cursive handwriting instruction in the DCEP, ensuring that every student throughout District 24 has access to this fundamental educational skill.

SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES

1. Van der Weel, F. R., & Van der Meer, A. L. H. (2024). Handwriting but not typewriting leads to widespread brain connectivity: A high-density EEG study with implications for the classroom. *Frontiers in Psychology*.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1219945>

2. James, K. H., & Engelhardt, L. (2012). The effects of handwriting experience on functional brain development in pre-literate children. *Trends in Neuroscience and Education*, 1(1), 32–42.

These studies address handwriting generally and do not establish that cursive is superior to manuscript printing.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 24

The elected voice of District 24 parents — advocating for strong academic foundations and the educational success of every child.

Vote: (CEC 24) – Roll Call (Check One Per Member)

Matthew Crescio: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Anna Karwowska: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Gina Liberta: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Felicia McHugh: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Kate Barvels: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Aliya Bonar: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Brian Augustine: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Manisha Jain: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

Bhavi Vakil: ☐ Support ☐ Does Not Support ☐ Absent ☐ Abstain

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