



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

Address: 61-15 Oceania Street, Bayside, NY 11364 Phone: (718) 631-6927 Fax: (718) 631-1347 E-mail: CEC26@schools.nyc.gov

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October 13, 2022

Mayor Eric Adams
Chancellor David Banks

RE: Reductions to School Budgets in SY 2022-2023

Dear Mayor Adams and Chancellor Banks,

While the Community Education Council District 26 understands the rationale for reducing school budgets is tied to the large decrease in student enrollment, the drastic reductions impact a range of programs with proven outcomes, such as ELL and special education students receiving extra support, after-school programs or clubs, and other enrichment programs, all intended to help children recover from learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fully implementing drastic budget reductions all at once causes significant disruptions to our schools. On the other hand, a gradual reduction phased in over multiple years, will soften the harsh impact on school programs that are still needed for recovery from the pandemic.

Furthermore, it was reported last week that Department of Education (DOE) budget directors warned principals that during the “midyear budget adjustment,” schools with additional enrollment shortfalls will need to further reduce their budgets.¹ This policy was not enforced during the last two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools that face significant budget shortfalls will likely need to “excess” teachers, placing more risk on the elimination of needed programs. With approximately \$506 M in federal relief funding remaining from last year alone, the budget reductions based on enrollment decreases can be partially offset with this stimulus funding.² We strongly urge the DOE to tap into federal funding to reduce detrimental impacts on our students.

Sincerely,
Community Education Council District 26

¹ <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2022/10/7/23393010/nyc-schools-budget-cuts-midyear-enrollment-declines>

² <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2022/8/4/23292221/eric-adams-nyc-school-budget-cuts-explainer>