



# THE CITYWIDE COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT 75

CHRISTI ANGEL-PRESIDENT, JOHANNA GOMEZ-VICE PRESIDENT, STEFANNIE BONILLA-2ND VICE PRESIDENT, REBECCA ALLY-TREASURER, MICHELLE WHITE-SECRETARY, MASUMA AKTER-COUNCIL MEMBER, JESSICA RIVERA-COUNCIL MEMBER, SHARON STEWART-COUNCIL MEMBER, ELIJAH HOBBS-PUBLIC ADVOCATE, GISSELLE RAMIERZ-PUBLIC ADVOCATE

## Resolution #22

### Resolution to Strengthen Community Education Council Budget Oversight, Transparency, and Public Engagement

WHEREAS, New York State Education Law § 2590-q grants Community Education Councils (CECs) the right to review and comment on their district's educational budget and programs and to hold public hearings;

WHEREAS, despite these advisory rights, CECs do not have authority to approve, amend, or control budget allocations, and the Department of Education (DOE) is not legally obligated to adopt or respond to council recommendations;

WHEREAS, this limited advisory framework lacks formal mechanisms to ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful community influence over budget decisions affecting local schools;

WHEREAS, the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), the New York City Council, the New York City Comptroller, the Independent Budget Office (IBO), and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) all play roles in educational oversight, but currently have no mandate to regularly review, report on, or hold hearings specifically focused on the funding, capacity, or performance of Community and Citywide Education Councils;

WHEREAS, increased transparency, accountability, and public engagement are essential to promoting equity and improving educational outcomes for all students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) shall hold annual public hearings dedicated to district and citywide council budget proposals, including input from Community and Citywide Education Councils and responses from the Department of Education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Education shall provide written, publicly available responses to all CEC and Citywide Council budget recommendations within 60 days of submission, clearly outlining which recommendations will be adopted, modified, or declined and the rationale for each decision;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Education shall publish accessible, transparent budget summaries for each district and citywide council aligned with recommendations submitted, detailing actual expenditures and progress on priorities identified by parent councils;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community and Citywide Education Councils shall be provided with training and resources to improve their capacity to analyze budgets, understand DOE financial processes, and advocate effectively on behalf of families and communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to enhance public engagement and transparency in the budgeting process, the Department of Education, in collaboration with oversight entities including PEP, the City Council, the Comptroller's Office, IBO, and NYSED, shall implement multiple mechanisms including, but not limited to:

- Regular public hearings at accessible times and locations for broad community participation;
- Surveys and digital platforms to solicit input and feedback from families, educators, and stakeholders;
- Publicly accessible timelines and calendars outlining key budget milestones and opportunities for input;

- Outreach efforts targeted to multilingual and underserved communities to ensure equitable participation;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that these reforms shall take effect beginning with the next fiscal year and be incorporated into the annual governance calendars of the DOE, PEP, and all relevant oversight bodies to ensure regular, meaningful community input and transparency in the educational budgeting process.

This Resolution was approved at Citywide Council for District 75 Calendar Meeting held on \_November 5th, 2025\_\_\_\_ by a vote of 9 yes. Members present including: Christi Angel, Johanna Gomez, Stefannie Bonilla, Rebecca Ally, Michelle White, Masuma Akter, Elijah Hobbs, Jessica Rivera, and Sharon Stewart.