



**Resolution Affirming the Values of the District 4 Community Education Council and New York City Public Schools to Ensure All Students Are Welcome and Safe Regardless of Immigration Status**

**Sponsors:** Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez, Lacey Jordan, Vandana Bonilla and Lawanda Joyner

**WHEREAS**, the District 4 Community Education Council (CEC4) wholeheartedly embraces its commitment to creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) students, staff, and families.

**WHEREAS**, it is [the policy of NYCPS](#) to provide equal educational opportunities without regard to national origin, alienage, or citizenship status.

**WHEREAS**, NYCPS students, staff and their families originate from many different countries besides the United States, may have received temporary legal status under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), may be applicants for [Special Immigration Juvenile Status](#) (SIJS), may be undocumented and/or may live in mixed status households (meaning one or various members of the family can be undocumented while others have some kind of temporary or permanent status).

**WHEREAS**, NYCPS reflects the diverse population of the world, which our schools celebrate in many ways.

**WHEREAS**, on May 21, 2025, Dylan Lopez Contreras, a student at the English Language Learners and International Support Preparatory Academy, an NYCPS transfer high school in the Bronx, was arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents while he attended a mandatory court hearing pertaining to his application for asylum and for SIJS, and since then has been moved to New Jersey, Texas, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania, spending most of that time with his hands and feet cuffed.

**WHEREAS**, [the May 21, 2025 arrest of Dylan was the first known example of a current NYCPS student being detained by ICE during this new presidential administration.](#)

**WHEREAS**, since May 28, 2025 CEC4 has been copied on over 300 emails from parents, educators, students, and community members in support of Dylan and urging Mayor Eric Adams to appeal to the federal government for Dylan’s immediate release from ICE detention.

**WHEREAS**, on June 2, 2025 [the New York City Law Department filed an amicus brief in Dylan’s case](#) arguing that Dylan’s arrest at a routine immigration hearing “sends a message to the thousands of other SIJS applicants in New York City alone that their appearance in court—be it for an SIJS proceeding or otherwise—may cut them out of the legal residency process they were otherwise willing to follow,” and concluding that “the City has an interest in ensuring that individuals like Dylan are afforded their rights under the law. The City offers resources to help immigrants, including those resources accessed by Dylan, such as the asylum help center he visited, and the English-language program he was attending at Ellis High School. Those steps help immigrants integrate into the community and contribute to its economic and cultural growth, as Dylan was already doing.”

**WHEREAS**, [on June 6, 2025 it was reported that another NYCPS student, Derlis Snaider Chusin Toaquiza - an 11th grader at Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood, Queens - was arrested by ICE while attending a legal hearing to seek asylum](#), was detained at 26 Federal Plaza for several days where [he was fed only one meal a day and forced to sleep standing up for lack of space](#), before being sent to [an ICE facility in Texas](#).

**WHEREAS**, [Derlis was detained by ICE for approximately six weeks before a Texas immigration judge granted his release on a \\$20,000 bond but Dylan remains in ICE custody](#).

**WHEREAS**, Students in Temporary Housing (STH), many of whom are in the process of seeking asylum in the United States under DACA, SIJS, and other programs established by the federal government, have [the highest rates of chronic absenteeism among all student demographics tracked by NYCPS](#),<sup>1</sup> and uncertainty around ICE enforcement activities creates a climate of fear that may further discourage school attendance for STH and for other NYCPS students.

**WHEREAS**, [in October 2022 CEC4 unanimously adopted Resolution #207 Resolution to Support the Needs of Asylum-Seeking Students in District 4](#), which called on the State and City to “provide legal/professional advice for asylum-seeking families,” and these cases underscore the need to allocate resources for that purpose.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CEC4 urges NYCPS to:

1. Work alongside immigration advocates to provide training and support for NYCPS students, staff and their families to best support students’ education, safety, and wellbeing.
2. Provide multi-language resources for NYCPS students, staff, and their families on legal assistance and immigrant rights.
3. Continue to welcome all students and their families regardless of immigration status.

---

<sup>1</sup> In the 2023-2024 school year the overall rate of chronic absenteeism in NYCPS was 34.8%, but for Students in Temporary Housing it was 51.7%. Chronic absenteeism is defined under Chancellor’s Regulation A-210 III.D. as an attendance rate of less than 90%. [https://pwsblobprd.schools.nyc/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-210-english.pdf?sfvrsn=706c8179\\_66](https://pwsblobprd.schools.nyc/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-210-english.pdf?sfvrsn=706c8179_66)

4. Not provide assistance to ICE in the enforcement of federal civil immigration law and not permit ICE access to NYCPS facilities or personnel except in the rare instances in which NYCPS is provided with a criminal warrant.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CEC4 urges Mayor Eric Adams to continue to press for the immediate release of Dylan and so that he can return to his family and to his NYCPS school.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CEC4 urges Mayor Eric Adams and NYCPS to support Dylan and Derlisother NYCPS students for the positive resolution of their ongoing asylum cases.

*This Resolution was approved at D4 CEC Calendar Meeting held on November 12th, 2025, by 7 votes.*

*Council members as follows:*

*Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez (Yes), Sophie Oulai (Yes), Lacey Jordan (Absent), Johanna Dominguez (Yes), Elizabeth Soto-Cardona (Yes), Adriana Tlacomulco (Absent), Lawanda Joyner (Yes), Vandana Bonilla (Yes) and Tia Jackson (Yes),*

**YES- 7**

**NO- 0**

**ABSTAIN- 0**

**ABSENT- 2**