



Resolution Requesting the Reconvening of the NYC DOE Working Groups on Class Size and Fair Student Funding

Date: February 11, 2026

Sponsors: Dr. Kaliris Y. Salas-Ramirez, Lawanda Joyner and Johanna Dominguez.

WHEREAS, in September 2022, New York State enacted a class size reduction law (Chapter 556 of the Laws of 2022) requiring NYC public schools to phase in lower class size caps — 20 students in grades K–3, 23 in grades 4–8, and 25 in high school — with annual benchmarks and full compliance by the 2027–28 school year, and requiring submission of annual progress reports as part of the NYC DOE’s Contract for Excellence;¹

WHEREAS, New York City’s class size reduction efforts report ongoing progress but compliance benchmarks (40% of classes below caps by SY 2024–25 and 60% by SY 2025–26) remain challenging due to staffing, space, and funding constraints;²

WHEREAS, to support meaningful implementation of the class size law, former Chancellor David C. Banks convened the NYC DOE Class Size Working Group to develop stakeholder-informed recommendations across enrollment planning, capital planning, staffing, instructional continuity, special education safeguards, and finance;³

WHEREAS, similarly, the Fair Student Funding (FSF) Working Group convened in July 2022 was charged with reviewing and recommending refinements to the FSF formula to align funding with student instructional needs and equity goals;⁴

WHEREAS, former Chancellors David Banks and Melissa Avilés-Ramos publicly described both Working Groups as dynamic bodies intended to inform ongoing implementation and capable of being reconvened to address emerging challenges, including reopening them;⁵

WHEREAS, newly appointed Chancellor Kamar Samuels has affirmed commitments to transparency, stakeholder engagement, and continuous review of funding and staffing approaches necessary to meet class size and equity goals;⁶

WHEREAS, despite these commitments, many recommendations from both Working Groups remain unimplemented or only partially implemented, leaving unresolved conflicts between class size mandates and enrollment-based budgeting;³

WHEREAS, the Class Size Working Group Final Report (December 2023) issued more than 50 recommendations including coordinated space planning, teacher recruitment strategies, protection of programs serving students with disabilities, and budget models prioritizing class size reduction;³

WHEREAS, the FSF Working Group Final Report (November 2022) recommended improvements to equity weights, transparency, and alignment between funding and instructional needs, many of which have not been fully implemented;⁴

WHEREAS, under the current FSF formula schools typically require approximately 20–21 students to financially justify a classroom teacher, which directly conflicts with early-grade class size caps and destabilizes schools with enrollment volatility due to poverty or housing insecurity;⁷

WHEREAS, students in poverty, students in temporary housing, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities continue to experience unmet needs under existing funding models;⁸

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council District 4 (East Harlem) urges the NYC Department of Education to reconvene the Class Size Working Group and the Fair Student Funding Working Group as ongoing implementation bodies with robust stakeholder representation and authentic community engagement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DOE shall publish public status reports detailing implementation of Working Group recommendations, barriers to progress, and updated timelines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the scope of the reopened Working Groups must include review and revision of enrollment-dependent funding thresholds that undermine class size compliance, particularly in early grades.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Contracts for Excellence, FSF, and capital planning must be coordinated to support class size reduction while strengthening equity-driven staffing and student supports.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that equity weights for poverty, temporary housing, multilingual learners, and disability status must be strengthened to ensure proportional resource allocation.

Footnotes:

1. New York State Education Law §3602-ee (Chapter 556 of the Laws of 2022). See also NYC DOE Class Size FAQ and Contract for Excellence reporting requirements.
2. NYC Department of Education, Average Class Size and Compliance Benchmarks, SY 2024–25 Implementation Reports.
3. NYC DOE Class Size Working Group Final Report, December 2023. Convened under Chancellor David C. Banks.
4. NYC DOE Fair Student Funding Working Group Final Report, November 2022.
5. Statements by Chancellor David C. Banks during Working Group convenings and public stakeholder meetings, 2022–2023.
6. Public statements and testimony by Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos regarding stakeholder engagement and class size implementation, 2024–2025.
7. NYC Independent Budget Office (IBO), analysis of Fair Student Funding and classroom staffing thresholds.
8. Institute for Children, Poverty & Homelessness (ICPH), policy briefs on FSF and unmet needs of students in temporary housing.

This Resolution was approved at D4 CEC Calendar Meeting held on February 11th, 2026, by 9 votes.

Council members as follows:

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

YES- 9 NO- 0 ABSTAIN- 0 ABSENT- 1