



Resolution of the Community Education Council District 4 (East Harlem)
Denouncing the Trump Administration’s Education and Anti-Poverty Policies, and Holding the NYC Mayor Accountable to Protect Black, Latine, Immigrant, Trans, Low-Income, and Students in Temporary Housing

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

WHEREAS, CEC4 affirms that education is a civil right and must ensure equity and inclusion for students regardless of race, language, gender identity, income, housing status, or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, East Harlem is a majority Black and Latine neighborhood with a poverty rate of approximately 29.4%, compared to 18.2% citywide¹; and

WHEREAS, in the 2023-24 school year, more than 119,000 NYC public school (NYCPS) students—about 1 in 9—experienced homelessness or lived in temporary housing, with Districts 4 and 23 among the highest-impacted areas^{2,3}; and

WHEREAS, within District 4 during the 2021-22 school year, approximately 12% of elementary and middle school students lived in temporary housing—higher than borough (10%) and city (9%) averages—and 70% of District schools served 10% or more students in temporary housing⁴; and

WHEREAS, District 4 enrolls approximately 10,509 K-12 public school students, of whom 1,970 (nearly 19%) are English Language Learners (ELLs) in 2023-24⁵; and

¹ <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/east-harlem>

² <https://advocatesforchildren.org/policy-resource/student-homelessness-data-2023>

³ <https://www.axios.com/2024/11/18/child-homelessness-students-new-york-city>

⁴ <https://pwsblobprd.schools.nyc/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/district-04-data-summary8b6adb78ddb54d1a83e8262a22f05456.pdf>

⁵ <https://data.nysed.gov/profile.php?instid=800000047245&utm>

WHEREAS, citywide 2023-24 NYC data shows 73.5% of students are economically disadvantaged, 16.3% are ELLs, 21.6% are students with disabilities, and Black and Hispanic youth comprise over 60% of enrollment⁶; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration froze or cut federal funding for critical antipoverty and early education programs—including Head Start, SNAP, TANF, school meal initiatives, and housing assistance programs—jeopardizing children’s readiness to learn and their well-being, which were then unfrozen⁷ creating chaos within our educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, federal policies dismantled support systems for Black, Latine, immigrant⁸, low-income, trans⁹, and housing-insecure students—defunding Title III¹⁰, migrant education, DEI initiatives¹¹, civil rights enforcement, and trans and undocumented student protections; and

WHEREAS, these actions disproportionately impact District 4 students living in poverty or temporary housing, further exacerbating barriers to academic success, increasing chronic absenteeism, and the opportunity for school to serve as a pathway for social mobility; and

WHEREAS, under NYC’s mayoral control model, the Mayor and Chancellor bear responsibility for mitigating federal policy harm through local investments and protections for marginalized students;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CEC4 unequivocally condemns the Trump administration’s dismantling of education equity infrastructure, antipoverty programs, and civil rights protections for vulnerable communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED CEC4 calls on the Mayor of New York City and the Chancellor of NYC DOE to:

1. Publicly affirm and safeguard the rights of Black, Latine, immigrant, multilingual, trans, low-income, and housing-insecure students, ensuring inclusive school climates and zero tolerance for discrimination.

⁶ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/reports/doe-data-at-a-glance>

⁷ <https://apnews.com/article/trump-education-freeze-school-grants-released-gop-f9ac79dd44595fc9d8a3c72609cb5574>

⁸ <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/trump-admin-says-undocumented-students-cant-attend-head-start-early-college/2025/07>

⁹ <https://edsources.org/2025/fear-and-resilience-transgender-students-express-concerns-over-trumps-anti-trans-policies/735943>

¹⁰ <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/01/nx-s1-5453457/trump-school-funding-grants>

¹¹ <https://civilrights.org/resource/anti-deia-eos/>

2. Invest in and fully fund early childhood education (e.g. Head Start, 3-K/Pre-K), SNAP-linked school meals, mental health/counseling, and holistic support vital for children living in poverty or temporary housing.
3. Expand resources for Students in Temporary Housing (STH)—including transportation, attendance counsel, bilingual support, and partnerships with housing advocacy organizations. This includes working on better busing contracts for students in NYCPS.
4. Strengthen DEI and anti-racist education initiatives, including culturally responsive curricula, restorative practices, LGBTQ-affirming policies, professional learning on racial equity and desegregation policies.
5. Guarantee trans-inclusive school policies, ensuring respect for name/pronoun, bathroom access, and gender-affirming supports, including in sports teams, in every D4 school and across NYC.
6. Ensure transparency and accountability in policy and resource decisions—including in mayoral appointments to the Panel for Educational Policy—with priority for leaders committed to equity and justice.
7. Collaborate with East Harlem community leaders, parent groups, and advocacy organizations to co-design education policy, budgeting, and programmatic interventions.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that CEC4 commits to ongoing advocacy—monitoring local responses to federal attacks, organizing community power, and holding city leadership responsible for ensuring all students—especially those living in poverty, temporary housing, or with multiple marginalized identities—receive equitable educational opportunity.

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