

Resolution to support our New York City Public Schools against Governor Cuomo's politically-driven attack on public education

Whereas, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced his education plan during his State of the State address in January 2015; and

Whereas, Governor Cuomo's plan would punish low-performing schools in high-poverty areas by putting them into receivership, stripping these schools of local control and silencing the voices of parents and educators, which is a blame-and-punish approach to schools that are suffering because of years of neglect and underfunding by the state; and

Whereas, Governor Cuomo's plan to lift the statewide cap on charter schools **and eliminate geographic limits** could lead to a huge increase in the number of charter schools in New York City and the two-tier system that has been created by inequitable co-locations with charters; charters fail to educate the same number of high-needs students as traditional schools, in violation of state law, but the governor wants to reward their bad behavior; and

Whereas, Governor Cuomo would move high-stakes testing into overdrive by basing 50 percent of a teacher's evaluation on state test scores, which goes against research showing that using test scores as a primary basis for evaluating teachers is invalid; high-stakes testing wastes our precious school funds and falsely treats a single test taken on one day of the school year as more important than what happens on the other 180 days; and

Whereas, Governor Cuomo is refusing to meet his constitutional obligation for funding schools, continuing to withhold the more than \$2 billion owed to New York City schools under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case, and instead offering a funding increase half that size, \$1.1 billion, for the entire state; he has also made the funding dependent on the adoption of his destructive agenda for public education, which amounts to extortion; and

Whereas, New York City schools desperately need their fair share of state aid to restore lost programs in art, music and library; to reduce class size and school overcrowding; and to provide necessary supports to students, including an adequate number of guidance counselors, psychologists and social workers in schools; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council of District _____ strongly opposes the governor's educational plan as announced in his State of the State address and will send copies of this resolution to the governor and legislators; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council will join in coalition with educators, parents, clergy, civil rights organizations and community activists to make our voices heard and to move our city's schools forward.