



DISTRICT 3 COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL

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CEC3 Resolution Vol. 15 (P) No. 3

Resolution to Support our New York City Public Schools against Governor Cuomo's Politically-driven Attack on Public Education

Approved at the March 4, 2015 CEC3 Calendar Meeting by a unanimous vote of the Council Members present at the time of the vote (8 in favor/ 0 opposed)

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 annually 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; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council of District 3 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 of District 3 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.