



THE CITYWIDE COUNCIL ON HIGH SCHOOLS
THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**INFORM NEW YORK CITY FAMILIES ABOUT
STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS UNDER STATE LAW
RESOLUTION 2017-R1**

Sponsor: President Michelle Gebrail

WHEREAS, Few New York City families are aware of students' educational rights under state law;

WHEREAS, Families and other education stakeholders who are informed about students' educational rights play more active and empowered roles in advocating for our city's children;

WHEREAS, The major categories of educational rights that the courts adopted in the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE)* case include

- sufficient training for and sufficient numbers of qualified teachers, principals, and other personnel, including guidance/college counselors (who facilitate articulation into college, mandated services, and review educational progress and social-emotional development); social workers, school psychologists, speech and language teachers, school nurses/health professionals, trained disciplinary and safety personnel, and attendance teachers;
- suitable and up-to-date curricula, including an expanded platform of programs to help students who are at risk of academic failure;
- adequate resources for students with disabilities and English-language learners;
- appropriate class sizes (noting that the constitutional benchmark for high school classes is 21-23 students per the New York State Court of Appeals in *Campaign for Fiscal Equity*);
- sufficient and up-to-date books, supplies, libraries, educational technology, and laboratories;
- a safe and orderly environment; and
- adequate, accessible school buildings, and designed in a developmentally age appropriate manner for the attending students.

WHEREAS, Transparency, government accountability, and informed civic participation by those directly affected by any social issue are hallmarks of a healthy, anti-discriminatory democracy; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating educational inequities and educational-rights violations will give our children and, in turn, our city a better chance for a brighter future, one filled with opportunity; and

WHEREAS, The Know Your Educational Rights Parent Ambassadors, a group of Central Brooklyn parent leaders associated with the Adelaide Sanford Institute and the Campaign for Educational Equity, have set an example by raising awareness about students' educational rights throughout their communities and by calling upon their local elected and education officials to do the same; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this body hereby calls upon New York City's and New York State's elected and education officials to

1. publish thorough, user-friendly information about students' educational rights under state law, using *Essential Resources: The Constitutional Requirements for Providing All Students in New York State the Opportunity for a Sound Basic Education* (http://bit.ly/Essential_Resources) as a template, and organized based on, but not limited to, the *CFE* categories; and
2. by September 2017, provide all New York City public school families with a copy of the resulting educational-rights publication.

Adopted by the Citywide Council on High Schools on June 14, 2017.