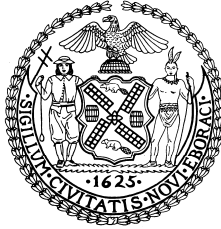


Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

June 25, 2013

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Changes to GED

Dear Governor Cuomo,

At its Full Board meeting Wednesday, June 19, 2013, Manhattan Community Board 8 adopted the following resolution by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention:

WHEREAS, the GED® exam is being phased out in New York as the primary pathway to a high school equivalency (HSE) diploma. Starting in January 2014, New York will use a new HSE exam that will phase in higher standards and computer-based testing; and programs and students need support to prepare for this major transition.

WHEREAS, New York City's current FY2014 budget plan includes no city funds for DYCD's community-based adult literacy services, which risks closing classroom doors to nearly 7,000 New Yorkers who want to earn a high school equivalency diploma and improve their literacy skills and employment prospects.

WHEREAS, New Yorkers who have passed some but not all sections of the GED® exam must finish the exam in 2013, or they will lose their earlier scores and have to start over with the new test in 2014.

WHEREAS, the Fund for Public Advocacy, with a coalition of partners, has launched the GED® Campaign to Finish to reach and engage 3,000 young adults who have begun the GED® preparation and testing process and support successful 2013 GED® completion for at least 2,000 individuals.

WHEREAS, adult literacy programs offer a high return on investment: for less than \$1,000 per student, adult learners become more prepared for the workforce, parents can better help children in school, young adults get back on track to educational and career advancement, and immigrants gain English language skills; and every high school credential earned generates \$324,000 in net benefits for the city.

WHEREAS, the need for adult literacy services in New York City is tremendous, with 1.2 million adults without a high school credential; 1.8 million adults lacking English proficiency; and 170,000 young adults ages 16 to 24 who are neither in school or working. The new federal policy of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is expected to further increase demand for adult literacy as an estimated 16,000 applicants in New York City strive to meet the educational criteria;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan supports adult literacy education in New York City; and calls on Mayor Bloomberg and the City Council to reach a FY2014 budget agreement that restores \$5.2 million for DYCD's Adult Literacy programs, \$1.5 million for the City Council's Adult Literacy Initiative, \$4.0 million for the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative, and funds Speaker Quinn's Adult Education DACA Initiative to expand adult education program seats.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan supports the 2013 GED® Campaign to Finish and calls on City agencies and partners to connect eligible New Yorkers to GED® preparation programs and testing to maximize the number of GED® passers before the changes in 2014.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan urges the State & City to subsidize all pathways/options to a High School Equivalency Diploma that may not yet be identified.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

James Clynes and Judith Schneider
Co-Chair, Youth and Education Committee

Cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City
Hon. Dennis Walcott, Chancellor DOE
Hon. Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Commissioner, Department of Youth and Community Development
Hon. Kathleen Grimm, Deputy Chancellor of Finance & Administration
Hon. Jeff Shear, Chief of Staff
Hon. Martin Barr, Executive Director, Department of Education
Marc Sternberg, Deputy Chancellor of Portfolio Planning
Elizabeth Rose, Chief of Staff for Public Affairs
Drew Patterson, Office of Portfolio, Department of Education
Mariano Guzman, Superintendent Community School District 2
Dara Adams, Office of Portfolio, Department of Education
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Rose Pierre-Louis, Deputy Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, United States Congress Member
Hon. Liz Krueger, New York State Senator
Hon. Micah Kellner, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Quart, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, New York City Council Member
Hon. Jessica Lappin, New York City Council Member
Hon. Robert Jackson, Chair, Education Committee, New York City Council
Kristen Ellis, Director of Comm. Affairs & Constituent Services, Manhattan Borough President's Office
Shino Tanikawa, President CECD2