

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2022

Hon. Eric L. Adams  
Mayor of the City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams,

The substantial cuts to New York City public schools in the FY2023 budget come at a time when showing up for children's health, well-being and education couldn't be more urgent. Under the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)* and the *American Rescue Plan*, Congress authorized \$7 billion in federal COVID recovery funding to the New York City Department of Education (DOE) in order to respond to the public health crisis by preventing budget cuts to schools and to helping to support students through the academic, social, and emotional challenges brought about by the pandemic. We understand that \$4.3 billion of that funding remains to be spent. We are disappointed to see education funding once again be targeted for defunding.

Despite the availability of flexible, federal funds intended to be responsive to children's and school communities' needs, we understand that principals of New York City public schools we represent are being forced to excuse teachers, counselors, arts, music, and other programming in response to budget cuts imposed upon them by the DOE. While flexible, these federal funds advocated for and secured by members of the NYC Delegation are not without condition. By going forward with these unjustifiable cuts to public education, not only are you undermining the education, health and well-being of NYC public school students in the immediate term, you are jeopardizing future access to these critical federal funds next year due to maintenance of equity requirements. As the Congressional representatives of the people of New York City, we write today to urgently request that you utilize federal stimulus dollars to restore the funding cuts to our schools that were announced earlier this month.

According to an [analysis by the NYC Comptroller](#), the vast majority of New York City public schools – 1,166, or 77% – face cuts to their 2022-23 budgets pursuant to the “Fair Student Funding” formula, averaging \$402,456 or 8% of their individual school budgets, for a total of \$469 million. Around 450 schools have cuts exceeding 10% of their budgets, and dozens are seeing cuts of over \$1 million. We have heard from parents, students, teachers, and principals that these cuts represent entire programs, beloved teachers, and dedicated counselors whose support is sorely needed in these difficult times.

In a year in which the DOE's budget has been bolstered by increases from both the Federal and State government, these cuts to individual schools would nonetheless result in fewer teachers in the classroom, fewer support staff for vulnerable students, and the end of critical and creative programs. We believe these cuts are both unnecessary and unacceptable

We ask that you use a modest portion (11%) of the \$4.3 billion of remaining stimulus funding to cover the \$469 million gap. While we understand that many of the remaining funds have been budgeted for good programmatic initiatives (e.g. Summer Rising, expanding 3K, supporting students with special needs, etc) over the next two years, the Comptroller estimates that \$620 million in stimulus funding that was budgeted for FY22 was not spent this year and will be rolled forward to future years. This rollover is

more than sufficient to cover the cuts to school budgets for next fall, still leaving more than enough for other programmatic initiatives.

We recognize there is a longer term need to address enrollment declines in NYC schools equitably and revisit the Fair Student Funding formula. But as we hear from numerous parents, educators, and students about the imminent loss of teachers and programming at their schools, we urge you to act now. Our schools cannot absorb such a substantial decrease in funding in one year without increasing class sizes and dramatically impacting the essential services and supports students receive – exactly the outcome we were trying to avoid when we passed *CRRSAA* and the *American Rescue Plan*. Whereas public schools serving families from higher income backgrounds may be able to fundraise to make up for Fair Student Funding cuts, we know schools serving low-income families won't have the same financial resources available. Further, Fair Student Funding formula accounts for a sizeable portion of salaries for full time employee teachers, paraprofessionals, school counselors and other critical members of our school communities. These cuts will exacerbate an ongoing teacher shortage when we should be investing in our public schools to support smaller class sizes.

Budgets are a reflection of priorities and these budget cuts fall far short of the investment our children deserve. We therefore respectfully ask that you utilize DOE's federal stimulus funding to restore NYC public school budgets and allow our educators to fully support their students with all the resources at their disposal.

We also request that NYCDOE make public a fully itemized report on the estimated \$1.7 billion in cuts to education, particularly cuts outside of the Fair Student Funding formula. While the Fair Student Funding formula cuts are carried out on a per pupil basis, we're deeply concerned that other cuts to education in your budget will have a disproportionate impact on high-need, high-poverty schools and disproportionately impact Black and brown children.

Sincerely,



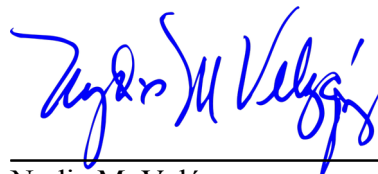
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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



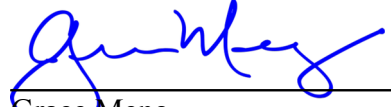
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress