



# CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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**Hon. Marquis A. Harrison**  
*Chairperson*

**Shatic Mitchell**  
*District Manager*

April 5, 2023

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine  
The David N. Dinkins Municipal Building  
1 Centre Street, 19th floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Borough President Levine:

Community Board 10 is pleased to present a letter of support for capital funding to benefit The Frederick Douglass Academy and P.S. 125 The Ralph Bunche School.

Due to the age of the school buildings in our district, School leadership is often challenged to provide a welcoming environment for our children, youth and families, attending school in our community.

Scholarly articles detail the impact of physical environment on learning. Consider the following quote, "Physical environment can be related to both student achievement and student behavior. A well-maintained and safe physical environment of high-quality fosters positive attitudes and motivations related to student's ability to learn, academic achievement, and prosocial behavior." National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments.

Physical environment also influences a teacher's level of job satisfaction and effectiveness. Given the current teacher shortage in our community, we need to address these issues whenever we can.

We would appreciate your offices' support in helping P.S. 125, The Ralph Bunche School in renovating the playground behind the school so that children can safely utilize the facility for play. Making necessary upgrades to the gymnasiums would also help to develop athletic abilities in children. Opportunities for play and creative activities would also be greatly enhanced by building a green roof/garden on site.

Achieving electrical upgrade throughout the building by adding more outlets to 45 classrooms is one of the funding requests that has the potential to support instruction.

We would also appreciate your offices' support in helping The Frederick Douglass Academy establish a Technology Center at FDA. Complete with smartboards and ample seating for students, faculty/staff and parents, the Technology Center will be a space designed to build trust among all these community stakeholders. The Technology Center will expand virtual learning options for students and staff and engage families to be true partners by hosting a series of tech-based workshops.

On April 5 2023 the Manhattan Community Board 10's General Board voted to approve this letter by a count of 37 YES, 0 NO 0 ABSTAIN, 0 RECUSAL

Please let us know if you need any additional information concerning our support of these important proposals. The condition of the schools in Community Board 10 has consistently been identified as a District Need. Community Board 10 thanks you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Hon. Stephanie Palmer, Chairperson  
Education Youth and Libraries Committee  
Manhattan Community Board 10



Hon. Marquis A. Harrison  
Chairperson  
Manhattan Community Board 10