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Resolution to Support the Needs of Asylum-Seeking Students in Community District 2

1. **Whereas**, a number of elementary and middle schools in Community District 2 (CB2) require further support to provide services to asylum-seeking families and students; and
2. **Whereas**, CB2 Schools & Education Committee hosted a public informational session titled “CB2 Schools who Face Funding Shortfalls For Academic and Basic Needs of Asylum Seeking Students”, that included Kelly McGuire, District 2 Superintendent and Renny Fong, Principal, PS 130 Hernando Desoto School, on Monday, March 13, 2023; and
3. **Whereas**, over the past several months, more than 19,000 asylum seekers have arrived in New York City, including more than 5,500 students who have entered the public school system who have varying degrees of English proficiency, grade level readiness and special education needs, and extreme trauma to overcome, and are in need extensive academic and social-emotional support^[1]; and
4. **Whereas**, of those 5,500 enrolled, the NYC Department of Education (DOE) has thus far placed 172 asylum-seeking students in CB2 schools:
 - [PS41 Greenwich School](#): 10 asylum-seeking students
 - [PS 3 Charrette School](#): 12 asylum-seeking students
 - [PS 130 Hernando Desoto School](#): 55 asylum-seeking students
 - [MS 297 Morton School](#): 95 asylum-seeking students
5. **Whereas**, the New York City public schools have served as critical vehicles to help immigrant students learn English, become New Yorkers, and develop the skills, knowledge, and relationships they need to thrive here; and
6. **Whereas**, to help schools provide the necessary support for these new students, the DOE announced an allocation of nearly \$12 million for use in public schools with at least 6 newly enrolled students living in temporary housing. These schools will receive \$2,000 per student, available immediately, via [School Allocation Memorandum 65 \(SAM 65\)](#)^[2], as part of the City’s “[Project Open Arms](#).” Schools with five or less newly enrolled students will not receive new funding from SAM 65; and

7. **Whereas**, DOE states that the new SAM 65 funding is being allocated in addition to the Fair Student Funding (FSF) schools should receive as a result of the increase in enrollment at the midyear adjustment (MYA)^[3]; and
8. **Whereas**, as schools take in additional students and require additional resources, schools can apply for budget appeals at any time, and additional funding is released to schools early if needed; and
9. **Whereas**, the SAM 65 funding is meant to provide additional immediate social-emotional, curricular, transportation, and extracurricular support to recently enrolled multilingual learners and can be used for per diem or per session staff, but not to hire permanent staff members; and
10. **Whereas**, [The Office of Language Access \(OLA\)](#) is tasked with providing free written translation to connect schools and central offices with free over-the-phone, and on-site and remote interpretation services as needed; including at least one Language Access Coordinator who has completed training on translation and interpretation services for families and providing all schools with Field Language Access Coordinators within OLA to assist with translation and interpretation support; and
11. **Whereas**, some schools report that they have not received the Language Access and Support promised by Project Open Arms, and have had to deploy Spanish-speaking staff members to fill this need beyond their regular duties; and
12. **Whereas**, schools have received students who speak multiple languages, including Russian, for which language support has not been provided; and
13. **Whereas**, [New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene](#) (DOHMH) is part of a cross-agency team tasked with linking asylum-seeking families to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and health centers for immunizations and on-going pediatric care; and
14. **Whereas**, students in temporary housing are excluded from immunization requirements as part of their right to immediate enrollment, but children who are unvaccinated or overdue must receive at least the first dose of all required vaccines within their first 14 days of attendance in order to remain in school^[4]; and
15. **Whereas**, a CB2 school reported that asylum-seeking families were unaware or uninformed of school immunization requirements and/or timeline and, as a result, students were excluded from school; and
16. **Whereas**, there have been multiple reports^[5] that the food provided to asylum-seeking families living in temporary housing is inedible and pediatricians have seen an “increase in the number of children reporting gastrointestinal issues including poor appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and constipation.”^[6]

17. **Whereas**, a CB2 school report that for asylum-seeking families, “sometimes the school meal at our school is the best meal they have, especially for the children”, and that there is a need for home-cooked and hot meals; and
18. **Whereas**, CB2 schools report a lack of basic necessities and services for asylum-seeking families which includes right-size clothing and footwear, diapers, formula, strollers, a place to wash clothes, dental care, employment services for parents/caregivers and legal services; and
19. **Whereas**, the DOE is starting to plan for the 2023 [Summer Rising](#) program, to provide programming for children from families seeking asylum by identifying partner CBOs and instructing them to increase bilingual staff, particularly for afternoon enrichment hours; and
20. **Whereas**, the 2022 Summer Rising application process was web-based and many asylum-seeking families are without internet, device access, or translation services to get information or register their students; and
21. **Whereas**, the [Division of School Leadership](#), [Office of the First Deputy Chancellor](#), and Teaching & Learning, including [Specialized Instruction & Support](#) and [Office of Multi-language Learners](#), have been tasked to work in concert to support superintendents and principals to create an array of before-and-after school activities across all grade levels that directly respond to students’ needs and interests; including a targeted recruitment plan where schools advertise said extracurricular offerings to families and students to enhance students’ academic and social experiences; and
22. **Whereas**, after-school offerings are limited as the CBOs that typically provide after-school offerings are operating on a budget set prior to asylum-seeking students’ arrivals and have filled all available spots leaving asylum-seeking students without after-school options; rendering their parents/caregivers unable to work/seek employment beyond regular school hours; and
23. **Whereas**, a CB2 school reports it has not received any transportation aid for asylum-seeking families and that many have had to navigate this unfamiliar city for miles on foot to get their children to-and-from school.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Community Board 2 urgently implores:

1. the DOE to apply SAM 65 funding to provide additional immediate social-emotional, curricular and extracurricular support to new multilingual learners, including per diem or per session staff;
2. the DOE to allow principals to use SAM 65 to hire permanent staff;
3. the DOE to provide full ongoing funding to schools for asylum-seeking students regardless of enrollment date;
4. the DOE to develop a comprehensive plan for schools that enroll students from families seeking asylum, and develop and implement a plan to provide schools with full FSF for these students now so principals can hire the necessary teachers, social workers and support staff; including coaching, professional development, and sharing of best practices to help schools spend those resources (as well as pre-existing ones) most effectively;

5. the DOE immediately to assign a minimum of 2 social workers at each school to provide trauma based therapeutic services and case management needed to ensure students/families are connected to needed services and supports systems;
6. the DOE to implement and fully fund a weight for students in temporary housing (STH) as well as a concentration weight which would provide additional funding to schools with the highest concentration of needs including students experiencing poverty, students with disabilities, English language learners, students in temporary housing and students in foster care; weights that do not currently exist in the FSF formula;
7. the DOE work with the NYC Public Library to automatically issue Library Cards to Asylum-Seeking Students upon enrollment, including [library service offerings](#) and directions to the libraries nearest the school and student's residence in their native language^[7] so they can independently access resources;
8. [The Office of Language Access \(OLA\)](#) to provide free written translation to connect schools and central offices with free over-the-phone, and on-site and remote interpretation services as needed; including at least one Language Access Coordinator who has completed training on translation and interpretation services for families and providing all schools with Field Language Access Coordinators within OLA to assist with translation and interpretation support;
9. the DOE to provide a resource guide to all NYC schools with a direct contact list of relevant city agencies, CBOs, and phone numbers to help school administrators and teachers assist asylum-seeking families;
10. DHS, HRA and MOIA work together to identify CBOs that can adequately provide asylum-seeking families with basic needs (clothing, fresh hot food, shelter), and transition supports (jobs, English language lessons, access to appropriate benefits...), and ensure those services are deployed;
11. the DOE to Partner with NYU Dental to provide ongoing care to asylum-seeking students;
12. [STH](#) (Students in Temporary Housing), [OPT](#) (Office of Pupil Transportation) and DOE immediately provide MetroCards to all asylum-seeking students and families as specified in the "Transportation section of Project Open Arms;
13. the DOE and OPT arrange yellow bus service for all students that qualify including information on establishing new bus routes, help accessing and filling out the Busing Exemptions Form, and any other required paperwork;
14. the DOE identify, fully fund and secure CBO partners to address the shortfall of before and after school seats to accommodate asylum-seeking students;
15. the DOE expand the 2023 Summer Rising program to accommodate asylum-seeking students, including information, application help, and programming in their native languages;
16. the DOE provide asylum-seeking families with clear information and a timeline for required immunizations as well as a list of providers and help securing appointments; and

Be It Finally Resolved that CB2 urges the enrollment method DOE is using to place newcomer students in schools should take both student and family needs and school capacity, programming, and funding into consideration moving forward, including [increased transparency](#) in the student intake process, the methods used to determine where students are placed, the screens DOE is using to assess students' academic, mental health and other needs, and the work being done to enable schools to meet those needs.

Vote: Unanimous, 44 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Jeannine Kiely, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Patricia Laraia, Chair
Schools and Education Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JK/EM

^[1]<https://gothamist.com/news/thousands-of-asylum-seeking-students-spread-out-across-more-than-300-nyc-schools>

^[2]https://www.nycenet.edu/offices/finance_schools/budget/DSBPO/allocationmemo/fy22_23/fy23_docs/fy2023_sam065.htm

^[3]https://www.nycenet.edu/offices/finance_schools/budget/DSBPO/allocationmemo/fy22_23/fy23_docs/fy2023_sam065.htm

^[4]https://health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/schools/school_vaccines/

^[5]<https://gothamist.com/news/nyc-migrant-crisis-highlights-long-standing-homeless-shelter-issues>

^[6]<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/investigations/migrant-crisis/migrants-complain-of-rotten-nyc-shelter-meals-but-mayor-implies-theyre-just-picky/4046902/>

^[7]<https://www.nypl.org/language>

OPEN ARMS Families Seeking Asylum: Comprehensive Support Plan:

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/press-releases/2022/OpenArms-Families-Seeking-Asylum.pdf>

cc: Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NYS Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanaugh, NYS Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Grace Lee, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
Lupe Hernandez, Community Organizer for Education and Opportunity of the Office of the Public Advocate
Sayde Campoamor, Chief Equity Officer for NYC Comptroller Brad Lander
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Alvin Bragg, Manhattan District Attorney
Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council Member
Hon. Christopher Marte, Council Member
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member
Hon. Mark Treyger, Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for NYC Schools
Kelly McGuire, NYC Department of Education District 2 Superintendent
Community Education Council District 2
Renny Fong, Principal PS130
Hillary Casado, Principal PS3
Michelle Amato, Principal PS41
Valerie Leak, Principal IS297
Michele Ammon