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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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April 28, 2025

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senator, Temporary President & Majority Leader
250 Broadway, Room 1930
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Carl E. Heastie, Speaker
NY State Assembly
1446 East Gun Hill Road
Bronx, NY 10469

Dear Hon. Governor Hochul, Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Hon. Carl E. Heastie:

At its Full Board meeting on April 17, 2025, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

Community Board 2 Resolution in Support of \$500,000 Funding for NYSED to Advance the Integration of the Science of Reading into Educator Preparation Programs and Certification Standards

Whereas:

1. **The Path Forward.** [The NY State Action Plan: The Path Forward](#)¹ is a NY statewide policy effort to transform teacher preparation and teacher licensure programs to include the science of reading (SOR.)
2. **The Process.** Since Fall 2023, with support from the [New York State Department of Education](#)² (NYSED) and the [Hunt Institute](#)³, [Literacy Academy Collective](#)⁴ (LAC) convened the NYS Path Forward team composed of a [Leadership Committee](#)⁵,

¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zi-xGxH4xbQKTRbKtPh_6tc8-7utSlcF/view

² <https://www.nysed.gov/>

³ <https://hunt-institute.org/>

⁴ <https://www.literacyacademycollective.org/>

⁵ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1swR7peu6cHSepqP8Vohhs9XYqEMiW3fk/view>

[Steering Committee](#)⁶, and three [working groups](#)⁷ of 50 members from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. The NYS Path Forward team developed the Action Plan, which contains six (6) action items – and one of them is Program Review for which NYSED seeks funding this year.

3. **\$500,000 Budget Request for FY 2025-26.** NYSED requests a \$500,000 budget appropriation to support four (4) positions at NYSED to ensure quality oversight of core programs that teach literacy. These positions will help oversee a more intensive and critical program review process. NYSED currently only has two (2) staff to oversee program quality for all 4,500+ teaching programs. As Educational Preparation Providers (EPPs) shift to new practices, NYSED oversight is the critical next step toward strengthening the science of reading in our state.
4. **Literacy Crisis – 69% of NY State Students are Below Proficient.** The most recent [NAEP](#)⁸ reading scores show that only 31% of NY State students are at or above Proficient.
 - a. According to the [NIH National Reading Panel](#)⁹ over 95% of all students could learn to read if taught using evidence-based practices grounded in the SOR.
 - b. NY State is fifth from the bottom in integrating evidence-based practices grounded in the science of reading into the core components of our EPPs¹⁰. During the 2022-2023 school year, more than 90% of New York’s public-school teachers who had one or more teaching assignments in early childhood/elementary or literacy completed a New York educator preparation program.
5. **Progress in FY 2024-25.** Last year, New York took critical steps toward addressing the State’s literacy crisis. The FY2024-25 Enacted Budget committed to integrating the science of reading into our literacy practices by supporting teacher training and providing guidance on instructional best practices.
6. **More is Needed.** While this was a strong start, it is insufficient for the task at hand. Other states that have successfully and dramatically shifted literacy outcomes tackled all components of literacy: early reading assessment, support for current teachers, high-quality instructional materials, and **oversight and regulations that ensure EPPs are preparing new teachers to teach evidence-based literacy grounded in the science of reading.** By funding these NYSED positions this year, New York will show we are committed to this change.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Community Board 2:

1. Believes that literacy is a Civil Right. All children deserve to receive evidence-based reading instruction, grounded in the science of reading, that will allow them to experience academic success – the first pillar of culturally responsive and sustaining education; and,
2. Strongly urges New York to include \$500,000 in the One-House budgets to support the implementation of the [NY State Action Plan: The Path Forward](#)¹¹. This will improve

⁶ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1swR7peu6cHSeqqP8Vohhs9XYqEMiW3fk/view>

⁷ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rBZJvWXBeAnzM5sZp-Pxd8JX2R7bsjJO/view>

⁸ https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/reports/reading/2024/g4_8/state-district-trends/?grade=8

⁹ <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pubs/nrp/Documents/report.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.nctq.org/review/standard/Reading-Foundations>

¹¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zj-xGxH4xbQKTRbKtPh_6tc8-7utSlcF/view

literacy instruction in schools by supporting and integrating the science of reading into Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) and certification requirements. Funding will support four (4) positions at New York State Department of Education to ensure quality program oversight of NY State's 4,500+ teaching programs.

Vote: Unanimous, 35 Board Members in favor.

We respectfully request that your agency take action consistent with the positions expressed in the above.

Sincerely,



Valerie De La Rosa, Chair
Community Board 2 / Manhattan



Patricia Laraia, Chair
Human Services Committee
Community Board 2 / Manhattan

cc: Hon. Chuck Schumer, US Senator
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, US Senator
Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council, 1st District
Hon. Carlina Rivera, NYC Council, 2nd District
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council, 3rd District
Hon. Adrienne Adams, NYC Council Speaker
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senate, 27th District
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NY State Senate, 47th District
Hon. Grace Lee, State Assembly, 65th District
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY State Assembly, 66th District
Kelly McGuire, District 2 Superintendent
Council District 2
Dr. Angela Green, Chairperson, PEP
Gregory Faulkner, Vice Chairperson, PEP
Emily Hellstrom, Director of External Affairs of the LAC
