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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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March 3, 2026

Hon. Zohran Mamdani
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Dr. Betty A. Rosa
Commissioner of Education and
President of the University
of the State of New York
89 Washington Ave

Hon. John B. King, Jr.
Chancellor, SUNY
H. Carl McCall SUNY Building
353 Broadway
Albany, NY 12246

Hon. Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
Chancellor, CUNY
205 E 42nd St.
New York, NY 10017

Hon. Kamar H. Samuels, Chancellor,
NYC DOE
52 Chambers St.
New York, NY 10007

Linda G. Mills, JD, LCSW, PhD
NYU President
40 Washington Square South
New York, NY 10012

Dear Honorable Mayor Mamdani, Rosa, King, Matos Rodriguez, Samuels, and Dr. Mills:

At its Full Board meeting on February 19, 2026, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in Support of Literacy Academy Collective (LAC) Schools and Expanded Public Investment in Evidence-Based Literacy

1. **Whereas**, New York City lacks not only adequate dyslexia and learning differences diagnosis methods but also teacher training, curricula, and public-school options for students with dyslexia and language-based learning disabilities; and
2. **Whereas**, to address this deficit in targeted learning for students with dyslexia and language-based learning disabilities, [Literacy Academy Collective](https://www.literacyacademycollective.org/)¹ (LAC), the first New York City K-8 Public Schools providing scientifically proven instruction to support students with dyslexia

¹ Literacy Academy Collective: <https://www.literacyacademycollective.org/>

and other struggling readers, South Bronx Literacy Academy (SBLA), and Central Brooklyn Literacy Academy; and

3. **Whereas**, LAC's journey is featured in the documentary [Left Behind](#)² in addition to numerous news stories, including these: [News12 Bronx](#)³, [Spectrum News NY1](#)⁴, this piece in the [New York Times](#)⁵, and this article in [Youth Today](#)⁶; and
4. **Whereas**, LAC schools serve students with significant reading challenges who require intensive, evidence-based instruction beyond standard curricula, and consistently demonstrate reading growth at rates three to four times higher than expected; and
5. **Whereas**, LAC schools address the critical unmet need within New York City and New York State by supporting struggling readers, including students with disabilities and multilingual learners, through proven, data-driven instructional models aligned with the science of reading; and
6. **Whereas**, expanding access to LAC schools is essential to advancing educational equity, improving long-term student outcomes, and supporting the successful implementation of statewide and citywide literacy initiatives such as NYC Reads; and
7. **Whereas**, New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) has made progress through the implementation of [NYC Reads](#)⁷, reflecting a systemwide commitment to evidence-based literacy instruction grounded in the science of reading; and
8. **Whereas** high-quality teacher preparation and ongoing professional learning are essential to the effective implementation of evidence-based foundational literacy skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; and
9. **Whereas**, students who experience significant reading difficulties require additional, intensive, and specialized supports to access grade-level content and achieve literacy proficiency; and
10. **Whereas** Literacy Academy Collective schools (LACs) have demonstrated promise in providing targeted, structured literacy interventions for the most struggling readers; and
11. **Whereas**, expanding access to LAC schools at the state level would strengthen New York's ability to meet the needs of students with persistent reading challenges across districts; and
12. **Whereas**, sustained leadership and continuity are critical to maintaining momentum in literacy reform during periods of administrative transition; and

² Left Behind Film: <https://www.leftbehindthefilm.com/>

³ News12 BX: <https://bronx.news12.com/school-focused-on-teaching-literacy-flourishes-thanks-to-dyslexia-program>

⁴ NY1: <https://ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/education/2022/09/06/parents-play-a-major-role-in-new-dyslexia-pilot-program>

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/12/nyregion/adams-dyslexia-nyc-schools.html>

⁶ Youth Today: <https://youthtoday.org/2022/12/new-york-lags-in-helping-struggling-readers-can-mayor-eric-adams-pilot-dyslexia-program-help/>

⁷ NYC Reads: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/subjects/literacy/nyc-reads>

13. **Whereas**, the [site committed](#)⁸ by New York University for the [Bleecker School](#)⁹ is well situated to serve students with significant literacy needs due to its accessibility, proximity to diverse communities; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 2 (CB2) urgently implores:

1. NYC Public Schools (NYCPS) and the incoming Chancellor should reaffirm and continue the *NYC Reads* initiative, maintaining a clear and consistent focus on literacy as a top instructional priority across all elementary and middle schools;
2. NYCPS should deepen its investment in high-quality teacher training by ensuring robust, ongoing professional development aligned with the science of reading, with particular emphasis on the effective rollout and implementation of evidence-based foundational skills curricula;
3. The New York State Education Department and State policymakers should continue to coordinate efforts through the [Path Forward](#)¹⁰ to ensure that teachers graduate from Educator Preparation Programs to teach reading to all students;
4. City and State education leaders should coordinate efforts to align teacher preparation, certification, curriculum adoption, and intervention models with evidence-based literacy practices, ensuring coherence and sustainability across systems;
5. NYCPS, the Chancellor, and State education leaders to prioritize equity by directing resources, training, and specialized supports to schools and students with the greatest literacy needs;
6. New York University to partner with NYCPS to establish a Literacy Academy Collective school at the [site committed](#)¹¹ for the [Bleecker School](#)¹², expanding access to high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction for students with the most significant reading challenges in New York City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That CB2 urges continued public reporting, transparency, and stakeholder engagement to monitor progress, share best practices, and ensure that literacy initiatives remain responsive to student outcomes and community needs.

Vote: Unanimous, 35 Board Members in favor.

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

⁸ <https://thevillagesun.com/breaking-morton-williams-supermarket-is-safe-for-at-least-next-13-years>

⁹ <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb2/resources/schools/bleecker-school/>

¹⁰ NYS Action Plan: The Path Forward: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zj-xGxH4xbQKTRbKtPh_6tc8-7utSlcF/view

¹¹ <https://thevillagesun.com/breaking-morton-williams-supermarket-is-safe-for-at-least-next-13-years>

¹² <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb2/resources/schools/bleecker-school/>

Sincerely,



Valerie De La Rosa, Chair
Community Board 2 / Manhattan



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

cc: Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NY State Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanagh, NY State Senator, 27th District
Hon. Deborah Glick, NYS Assembly Member, 66th District
Hon. Grace Lee, NY State Assembly Member, 65th District
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigel, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Julie Menin, Speaker
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member, 1st District
Hon. Harvey Epstein, Council Member, 2nd District
Kelly McGuire, NYC DOE District 2 Superintendent
Council District 2
Gregory Faulkner, Chairperson, PEP
Emily Helmstron, Director of External Affairs and Strategy