



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**Burt Lazarin**  
Chair

**Jesse R. Bodine**  
District Manager

February 14, 2019

Richard A. Carranza  
Chancellor  
NYC Department of Education  
52 Chambers Street  
New York New York, 10007

**Re: School Mental Health Curriculum**

Dear Chancellor Carranza,

At the March 6, 2019 Full Board Meeting of Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) the board voted of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 1 present but not eligible to vote, to support the Mental Health Resolution of the Manhattan Student Leadership Council (MSLC) to provide that each New York City school have a full-time social worker and implement a mental health curriculum. According to a presentation by members of the MSLC, not enough is being done to meet the mental health needs of students in our school system.

At the January 7, 2019 meeting of the Arts, Culture, Education & Street Life Committee (ACES) of MCB4, a high school student from MSLC presented the organization's resolution to add more mental health resources for students in NYC schools. MSLC feels that mental health issues are not sufficiently discussed in schools and such issues can negatively impact a student's life. The student representative cited an article from the "Daily News" that reported more than 73,000 high school students in the country report feeling depressed each month, a dire situation that calls for immediate response.

School guidance counselors spend the bulk of their time with students, mainly focusing on high school and college presentation. On average, one out of ten students reports never having a face-to-face meeting with his or her guidance counselor. More social workers could provide additional help and resources for students to discuss their feelings and emotions in a safe and non-judgmental setting.

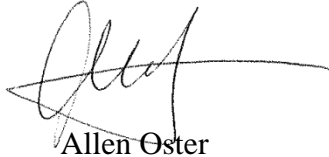
For many students, today's ever stressful environment results in episodes of depression, self-harm, and, in the worst case, suicide. The ACES committee urges the Department of

Education to review this resolution and engage with the students of MSLC in an effort to better understand their needs and suggestions.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin  
Chair  
Community Board 4



Allen Oster  
Co-Chair  
ACES Committee

[signed 3/14/19]  
Inge Ivchenko  
Co-Chair  
ACES Committee

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York  
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, City Council  
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Manhattan Student Leadership Council  
CEC District 2