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MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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February 14th, 2025

Hon. Erik Adams
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York, 10007

Re: Resolution Affirming The Status Of New York City Public Schools As A Welcoming Citywide District For All Students.

Dear Mayor Adams,

At Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) regularly scheduled meeting on February 5, 2025, the Board voted, with a vote of 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 present but not eligible to vote in support of the New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) **Resolution Affirming The Status Of New York City Public Schools As A Welcoming Citywide District For All Students.**

MCB4 has a long history of welcoming immigrant children to our neighborhood schools. In the last few years specifically, our principals, teachers, and school staff have helped thousands of students learn new languages and customs while fostering trust and community within the safety of school grounds. However, the safety of our students is under threat due to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) rescindment of schools as "sensitive" or "protected" locations that safeguarded immigrant children, who pose no immediate danger to the public, from being arrested. This new policy announced on January 21, 2025 is very concerning to schools located in MCB4 and the community at large as it undermines the physical and emotional well being of our students and their families.

MCB4 understands the important role that a student's safety plays in their ability to learn and are troubled to hear that many asylum seeking students are refraining from attending school due to the potential arrest and/or harassment by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Currently, New York City Public Schools staff and Non-Local Law Enforcement adhere to Chancellor's Regulation A-412 which, "Expands the expectation for safe and positive school environments that are free of violence and provide for psychological and physical safety

(I.A.2)’’¹ and Regulation A-820 that upholds data and privacy protections to which students and families are entitled.² While it is unclear if Regulations of the Chancellor will be upheld under DHS’s new policy, MCB4 remains resolute in ensuring the safety of all students.

As a community board that respects human rights, we resoundingly support the Panel for Educational Policy Resolution Affirming The Status Of New York City Public Schools As A Welcoming Citywide District For All Students. For clarity, the operative clauses of the resolution are stated here:

1. NYCPS will continue to work alongside its union partners and immigration advocates to provide training and support for students, staff, and their families on immigrant rights, potential avenues for immigration relief, and the overall health and well-being of those affected.
2. NYCPS will provide multi-language printed and online resources for its students, staff, and their families in partnership with the City on legal assistance, immigrant rights, health and mental health care, and public safety.
3. NYCPS will advocate for and support Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protective Status (TPS), and Refugee Resettlement Programs, as well as oppose the creation of a Muslim registry system and any efforts to erode civil rights protections for our diverse communities.
4. NYCPS will work alongside educators and elected officials committed to maintaining a curriculum that reflects our students’ identities and lived experiences and protecting our
5. NYCPS personnel shall not inquire about or record a student’s or a family member’s immigration status, and pursuant to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), shall not disclose, without parental consent, the immigration status of any student or other personally identifiable information.
6. NYCPS does not consent to granting non-local law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), access to school facilities, students, or student records for immigration enforcement purposes. Therefore, absent exigent circumstances, ICE will not be granted access without a judicial warrant—to be submitted to the Senior Field Counsel (SFC) for review and guidance.
7. NYCPS will collaborate with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) School Safety Division to provide training and reaffirm that School Safety Agents (SSA) have no authority to enforce federal immigration law and SSAs will not participate in federal immigration enforcement activities.
8. SSAs are prohibited from inquiring about or recording any information regarding an individual’s immigration status. SSAs shall not hold people on ICE detainers; shall not respond

¹ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-412-final-version70b2d643e2644c21b728183efbd323c7.pdf>

² https://pwsblobprd.schools.nyc/prd-pws/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-820-6-29-2009-final-combined-remediated-wcag2-0.pdf?sfvrsn=4809639b_32

to ICE notification or transfer requests; shall not make arrests based on civil immigration warrants and shall not allow ICE to use campus facilities for immigration enforcement purposes.

9. NYCPS personnel shall treat all students equitably in the receipt of school services, including, but not limited to, the free lunch program, pupil transportation, and all instructional programming.

10. NYCPS will continue to welcome all students, staff, and their families regardless of immigration status.

As a city of immigrants, MCB4 is committed to upholding the New York State Human Rights Law that prohibits discrimination in educational institutions regardless of the students' race, ethnicity, ancestry, nationality, national origin, immigration status or place of origin. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with our local schools, District 2 Superintendent, the Chancellor, and the Mayor's office to ensure the safety and well being of all students.

Sincerely,



Jessica Chait
Chair
Community Board 4



Josephine Ishmon
Co-Chair
ACES Committee



Matt Green
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

CC: Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor
Melissa Aviles-Ramo, Chansellor, DOE
Hon. Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, State Senate
Hon. Liz Krueger, State Senate
Hon. Tony Simone, State Assembly
Hon. Linda B. Rosenthal, State Assembly
Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council Member
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Council Member
Hon. Rita Joseph, Council Member
Robin Forst, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit
Kelly McGuire, Superintendent, School District 2