

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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LESLIE BOGHOSIAN MURPHY
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

May 14, 2026

Kamar H. Samuels
Chancellor
Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, New York 10007

Hon. Carl Wilson
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, New York 10001

Hon. Brad Hoylman-Segel
Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Career and Technical Education Program (CTE) and Food & Finance High School -
525 West 50th Street

Dear Chancellor Samuels, Council Member Wilson, and Borough President Hoylman-Segel,

On behalf of Manhattan Community Board 4, we write to express our strong support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, including the Food and Finance High School located in our district, and to urge continued and expanded investment in these critical educational pathways.¹

At a recent committee meeting, the Board heard directly from Prince Johnson, an educator and 2026 New York State Teacher of the Year, about the impact of CTE programs on student success, workforce development, and educational equity. These programs provide students with both rigorous academic instruction and hands-on professional training, preparing them for immediate entry into the workforce as well as post-secondary education. The Board supports elevating and advancing the following key priorities identified during this discussion:

¹ Manhattan Community Board 4, at its regularly scheduled general meeting on May 6th, 2026, unanimously voted to approve the following letter.

1. Public Perception and Awareness

CTE programs remain under-recognized despite high demand and strong outcomes. We encourage broader public awareness efforts and campaigns to elevate the value of CTE as a viable and respected pathway for students.

2. Teacher Workload and Support

CTE educators carry unique responsibilities, balancing traditional teaching with industry-specific training and certification preparation. Additional planning time, structural support, and resources are needed to sustain and grow these programs effectively.

3. Compensation and Recruitment (Pay Gap)

A significant barrier to expanding CTE programs is the difficulty of recruiting qualified instructors, who can often earn substantially more in private industry. Addressing this compensation gap is essential to building a strong pipeline of educators.

4. Equipment and Capital Investment

CTE programs—particularly in fields such as culinary arts—require up-to-date, industry-standard equipment. Ongoing capital investment is necessary to ensure students are training in environments that reflect current workforce conditions.

The Board recognizes that CTE programs like Food and Finance High School play a vital role in workforce development, economic mobility, and meeting the needs of New York City's labor market. These programs are in high demand, with significantly more applicants than available seats, underscoring the need for expansion and sustained support. Enclosed with this letter is a prioritized list of budget requests for the Food and Finance High School.

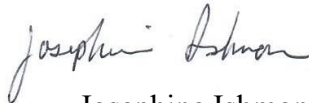
Accordingly, Manhattan Community Board 4 urges city and state leadership to prioritize investment in CTE programs, address structural barriers to growth, and work collaboratively with local stakeholders to strengthen and expand these opportunities for students.

We applaud Mr. Johnson's commitment and advocacy and we welcome continued engagement and partnership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Chair
Manhattan
Community Board 4



Josephine Ishmon
Co-Chair
Arts, Culture,
Education, and Schools
Committee



Jeffrey Gardner
Co-Chair
Arts, Culture,
Education, and Schools
Committee

Enclosure

Enclosure - Food and Finance High School Budget Priorities

Item	Link
12 Burner stove Range ~ \$4,700 - Kitchen 151 F. Costantino	Large, 72" 12 Burner Gas Range with 2 Ovens Vulcan Equipment
Blast Freezer - Kitchen G06, Dr. S. Donigan	https://www.huasheng-europe.com/product/blast-freezer-icecream?srltid=AfmBOooHXv7WxWpycS1IF0uMMLFI-PGrJJ65d5i6uNDqzS4DIGm-6YEBfls
Metro A566BC Super Adjustable Chrome 4 Tier Mobile Shelving Unit with Rubber Casters - 24" x 60" x 69" - Kitchen 255, W. Doherty	Metro A566BC Super Adjustable Chrome 4 Tier Mobile Shelving Unit with Rubber Casters - 24" x 60" x 69"
MoTak MR10-RGB24-N-C-S 60" 6 Burner Gas Range w/ Griddle/Broiler & (2) Standard Ovens - 2 each: Kitchen G52, G.Washington	MoTak MR10-RGB24-N-C-S 60" 6 Burner Gas Range w/ Griddle/Broiler & (2) Standard Ovens, Convertible
12 Burner stove Range ~ \$4,700 - Kitchen 161 S. Rodriguez	Large, 72" 12 Burner Gas Range with 2 Ovens Vulcan Equipment