



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 30

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RESOLUTION 188

Requesting Air Conditioner Installation, Upgrades, and Maintenance to All NYC Public Schools

WHEREAS, in 2017 Mayor DiBlasio, the City Council and Chancellor Fariña announced every classroom would have Air Conditioning by 2022. This announcement did not take into account common areas such as gyms, cafeterias and auditoriums.ⁱ

WHEREAS, in 2017, the city allocated \$28.75m to replace 26% of classroom air conditioners, roughly 11,500 classrooms.

WHEREAS, in 2019 Mayor DiBlasio and the SCA revised the amount in the FY Proposed Five Year Capital Plan increasing the allotment to \$248m in what was called the “Air Conditioner Initiative”.ⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, in 2021a DOE report for the City Council indicated that only 6,797 units had been replaced out of the 11,500.ⁱⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, in September of 2021 The Center for Climate Integrity released a publication called Hotter Days, Higher Costs: The Climate Crisis in America’s Schools^{iv}

WHEREAS, The Hotter Days, Higher Costs Publication names New York State as one of five that will require over \$1 Billion in new cooling equipment costs by 2025

WHEREAS, The Hotter Days, Higher Costs publications also references that New York City faces one of the highest challenges due to costs and retrofitting older buildings that would result in quick fixes such as in-window units that will end up being costlier in the long run.

WHEREAS, Air Conditioners have been said to create an environment for better focus and concentration. Additionally, it affects social and emotional skills.^v

WHEREAS, A recent study done by New York City found that 11% of children are less likely to do well on their exams on a 90 Degree Day as opposed to on a 72 Degree Day.^{vi}

WHEREAS, Excessive heat can negatively impact young children both psychologically and developmentally.^{vii}

WHEREAS, in June of 2023, Canadian Wildfires greatly impacted NYCPS, forcing outdoor activities to be canceled, yet a number of the buildings lacked the proper ventilation to ensure the safety of Children, Teachers, and building employees. Buildings without properly working air

conditioners meant that windows needed to remain open allowing for the smoke and polluted air to be able to enter buildings.^{viii}

WHEREAS, NYS currently has a minimum temperature limit for schools but there is no maximum temperature limit.^{ixx}

WHEREAS, The NYS Assembly recently passed language that if the indoor temperature were to get in excess of 88 Degrees, school would be canceled.^{xi}

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Education Council 30 (CEC 30) urges the NYC Public School System to conduct a thorough survey of existing conditions of ALL air conditioning units inside of every NYCPS building; both In-Window units and Central Systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NYCPS Chancellor works with all City and State agencies to ensure every school building has an effective and working system for adequate cooling in all rooms, including common areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NYCPS and the SCA explore ALL options, including the potential for a carbon-neutral footprint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 30 urges City Councilmembers and State Legislators to ensure that adequate funding is made available within upcoming budget cycles to support every school building's budget for the maintenance, upkeep, and, if necessary, timely replacement of Air Conditioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NYCPS Chancellor works with the SCA, Superintendents, and building Principals to ensure that every building's budget includes a line item for the maintenance, upkeep, and, if necessary, timely replacement of Air Conditioners.

Voted and Approved: August 12, 2024

ⁱ <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/261-17/mayor-de-blasio-chancellor-fari-a-city-council-every-classroom-will-have-air>

ⁱⁱ

https://dnnhh5cc1.blob.core.windows.net/portals/0/Capital_Plan/Capital_plans/02012019_20_24_CapitalPlan.pdf?sr=b&si=DNNFileManagerPolicy&sig=aJpFmjNrFacdfbme5LzsOgHK4k5xeIgrZtwQV%2BRsul4%3D

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://council.nyc.gov/budget/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2021/02/Department-of-Education-%E2%80%93-Air-Conditioning-Report-Summary-1-of-2.pdf>

^{iv} <https://coolingcrisis.org/uploads/media/HotterDaysHigherCosts-CCI-September2021.pdf>

^v <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8957707/>

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- vi <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2016/9/28/21099093/is-it-getting-hot-in-here-if-so-you-re-less-likely-to-pass-a-high-stakes-test/>
- vii <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8970212/>
- viii <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2023/6/7/23752207/air-pollution-canada-wildfires-nyc-schools-outdoor-activities-cancelations/>
- ix <https://www.uft.org/your-rights/safety-and-health/environmental-health-and-safety/building-hazards/indoor-temperature-regulations>
- x <https://www.uft.org/news/opinion/editorials/cool-classrooms>
- xi <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2024/06/17/heat-wave-new-york-schools-temperature-bill-albany/>