



COMMUNITY EDUCATION DISTRICT COUNCIL 30

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Resolution 191

Resolution in Support of Prioritizing the Utilization Needs of Community School Districts and NYCPS Programs When Considering Significant Changes in School Utilization and Procedures for the Management of School Buildings Housing More Than One School

WHEREAS, in March 2025, a petition titled “Protect our Public Schools: No Zeta Charter School in the P.S. 150 Annex in Sunnyside” was circulated by many District 30 parents and guardians, along with CEC 30 to oppose the co-location of a Zeta Charter School location within the P.S. 150 Annex.¹

WHEREAS, the aforementioned petition gathered over 500 signatures.²

WHEREAS, although the proposal from Zeta Charter Schools has currently been vacated,³ District 30 should have been empowered by New York City Public Schools to decide to use the P.S. 150 Annex to address various seat needs for District 30 families, including Pre-K, Kindergarten, or Early Childhood Special Education programs.

WHEREAS, the proposal from Zeta Charter Schools was a result of the Charter Schools Act of 1998, which states that “a charter school may be located in part of an existing public school building, in space provided on a private work site, in a public building or in any other suitable location.”⁴

WHEREAS, the Charter Schools Act of 1998 also states that if “a charter school may be located or co-located in an existing public school building in a city school district in a city having a population of one million or more inhabitants, the chancellor shall identify which public school buildings may be subject to location or co-location, provide the rationale as to why such public school building is identified for location or co-location and shall make all such information publicly available, including via the city board's official internet website.”⁵

WHEREAS, in 2014, New York State passed a law requiring the city to either provide classroom space in existing Department of Education public school buildings or reimburse schools for rental costs in private spaces for any new or expanding charter schools.⁶

WHEREAS, the city paid about \$75 million for charter rental reimbursements in fiscal year 2023, after factoring in the state’s portion of the payments according to the Independent Budget Office.⁷

WHEREAS, one charter school network ‘artificially’ inflated its rent costs by using an affiliated group to sub-lease the property back to the school at three times its original price, which caused the rental reimbursements paid by the city to increase.⁸

WHEREAS, Chancellor’s Regulation A-190 only permits the affected Community School District to hold a joint public hearing on charter school co-locations with the impacted CEC and the SLT at the school that is the subject of the proposal after the Educational Impact Statement concerning the charter school utilizing the space of the Community School District is published.⁹

WHEREAS, the Charter School Act of 1998, the 2014 law, and procedures within Chancellor’s Regulation A- 190 provide an unfair priority and advantage for a charter school to enter a Community School District’s facilities, and require New York City Public Schools to remain responsible for covering the rental costs for a space that would not serve children enrolled in a Community School District in New York City Public Schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Community Education Council 30 (CEC 30) calls on the NY State Legislature to amend the existing laws that permit Charter School Co-location to prioritize the needs of the existing Community School District and New York City Public Schools when determining the use and utilization of existing school buildings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 30 calls on the NY State Legislature to repeal the 2014 law requiring New York City Public Schools to remain responsible for covering the rental costs for new or expanding charter schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 30 calls on New York City Public Schools to improve current procedures and devote resources to prioritize Community School District and New York City Public School Program needs, including adding seats for early childhood education or special education programs, before presenting these spaces as options for new or existing charter schools.

¹ <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/protect-our-public-schools-no-zeta-charter-school-in-western-queens/>

² *ibid*

³ <https://sunnysidepost.com/charter-school-slated-to-open-in-sunnysides-p-s-150-annex-has-been-scrapped>

⁴ <https://nyccharterschools.org/resources/new-york-state-charter-schools-act-1998-amended/>

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ <https://ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/savings-options-reducing-subsidies-december-2022.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2025/03/24/judge-backs-city-dispute-state-charter-school-rent-reimbursement/>

⁸ <https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2025/03/24/judge-backs-city-dispute-state-charter-school-rent-reimbursement/>

⁹ Section II.A.2 – section II.C.6, <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-190.pdf>

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