



**COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 30**

28-11 Queens Plaza North, Room

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**Resolution 201 -**

**Protecting the Rights of Students With Disabilities: Resolution Opposing Federal Funding Cuts and Staff Layoffs**

**Author:** Estela Nguema

**Co-sponsor(s):** Whitney Toussaint; Victoria Medelius; Kayla Spence; Alexis Kaloyanides; Danielle LoPresti Lee

**WHEREAS**, the Trump Administration's budget proposal for 2026 includes significant changes to special education funding, including consolidating seven Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs into a single funding stream; and

**WHEREAS**, these layoffs within the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) will lead to catastrophic consequences, including increased caseloads, reduced services, and diminished academic progress for students with disabilities, compromising the ability of school districts nationwide including those in New York City to provide a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) as mandated by Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and

**WHEREAS**, the Trump Administration's proposed changes also include a \$4.5 billion cut to K-12 programs, eliminating funding for afterschool and summer programs, arts and technology classes, and mental health services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trump Administration's budget proposal would reduce funding for the Office of Civil Rights by \$49 million, potentially weakening enforcement of civil rights protections; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of students with disabilities enrolled in the New York City Department of Education (DOE, hereafter referred to as NYCPS) has increased significantly, with 7.5 million students ages 3-21 receiving special education and/or related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 2022-23, representing 15% of all NYCPS students, up from 13% in 2012-13; and

**WHEREAS**, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairments, and autism are among the most common disability types, accounting for 32%, 19%, and 13% of students served under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act respectively, highlighting the need for additional resources and support to ensure the educational needs of students with disabilities are met; and



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**WHEREAS**, the IDEA Amendments of 1997 and 2004 emphasize academic expectations, accountability, and improved educational outcomes for students with disabilities, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act (2008) expands the definition of disability, further emphasizing the need for adequate support and accommodations; and

**WHEREAS**, parents, families, and the community express concerns about the potential impact on NYCPS's ability to provide mandated special education services; and

**WHEREAS**, the NYCPS has a moral and legal obligation to prioritize the education and well-being of students with disabilities, who are among the most vulnerable members of our communities; and now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Community Educational Council (CEC 30) District 30 strongly opposes the Trump Administration's proposed changes to special education funding, including the consolidation of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act programs and the shift to a block grant program, and calls on all United States Congressmembers and United States Senators representing New York City and New York State to publicly oppose these proposals, vote against any legislation that weakens IDEA and to use their legislative authority to vote for legislation that:

1. Immediately reinstates full federal funding for special education, with a significant increase in funding to support the growing needs of students with disabilities; and
2. Calls for the swift passage of the IDEA Full Funding Act (H.R. 2598) in the United States House of Representatives and its companion legislation in the United States Senate to ensure full federal funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), recognizing that federal investment in IDEA is essential to equitably support students with disabilities; and
3. Reinstates U.S. Department of Education to former staffing levels to ensure the agency can effectively support students with diverse needs; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the CEC 30 will:

1. Vigorously advocate for Federal, State, and City legislation that increases funding for special education, taking into account the increasing number of students with disabilities; and
2. Urge NYCPS, the New York City Council, Mayor Zohran Mamdani, New York State Assembly, New York State Senate, Governor Kathy Hochul, and all



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- relevant stakeholders to develop and implement effective solutions to mitigate and address the special education funding and staffing crisis; and
3. Urge NYCPS to take all necessary actions to protect the rights of students with disabilities; and
  4. Demand transparency and accountability from decision-makers regarding budget decisions and their impact on special education programs within NYCPS.

**Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026, by the Community Education Council of District 30.**

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<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-trump-administrations-recent-special-education-layoffs-will-have-major-long-term-impacts-on-disabled-children-and-students/>

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<https://www.svglendale.org/ourpages/auto/2025/2/3/57093101/SPEDPoliciesandProcedures.pdf?rnd=1692688464589#:~:text=OF%20IDEA%202004->



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,The%20Individuals%20with%20Disabilities%20Education%20Act%20of%202004%20i  
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<https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cgg/students-with-disabilities>

<https://www.advocacyinstitute.org/blog/?p=1366>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2598/text>