



Community Education Council For District One

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3/26/14 2013-2014 Reso01

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF UNIVERSAL PRE-K IN NYC

WHEREAS:

A wealth of research shows pre-kindergarten and after-school programs are key to improving graduation rates and reducing the achievement gap.

These high-quality programs are proven to increase cognition, boost scores and build fundamental skills that put children on an upward educational path.

Kids who receive early education are 20% more likely to graduate high school and 20% more likely to work their way out of poverty.

Pre-k can reduce the achievement gap by up to 40%, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Without a high-quality early childhood intervention, an at-risk child is: 25% more likely to drop out of school, 50% more likely to be placed in special education and 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime, according to the Ounce of Prevention Fund.

1 in 4 children is left alone and unsupervised after-school in NYC, according to the Afterschool Alliance. That means teenagers left to spend after-school hours—the peak window for juvenile crime & violence—out on the streets.

Research on high quality after-school programs has found that children who participate have improved attendance, behavior, coursework, and test scores.

Under New York City's plan, all four-year olds would have access to truly Universal Pre-K for the first time in New York City's history.

This would close a gap of 53,767 children who currently receive inadequate part-time Pre-K, or no Pre-K at all and serve more than 73,000 4-year olds at full implementation.

New York City's plan would also aggressively expand after-school learning opportunities for nearly 120,000 middle school students, adding new programs between 3pm and 6pm in academics, culture and athletics.

Middle school is a critical period when parents' involvement in education declines and kids need to be kept off the streets and out of harm's way.

The City of New York is calling for a five-year increase in the NYC income tax on earners over \$500,000 from 3.876% to 4.41%, which would yield approximately \$530 million in new revenue each year.

The past three New York City mayors have won approval from Albany to raise local taxes for priority issues – this tax increase would be even smaller.

Albany has promised universal pre-k since 1997, but funding commitments haven't materialized and tens of thousands of New York City children are left behind.

New York City should have home rule authority to raise its own taxes, to provide a dedicated funding source that guarantees program stability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

CEC 1 supports New York City's plan to raise a small tax on New York City's highest earners to create sufficient and stable funding for universal pre-kindergarten and expanded after-school programs.

Passed unanimously on March 26, 2014