



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

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Resolution on Dual Language Support and Funding

Approved at the May 15, 2018 CEC3 Calendar meeting by a roll call vote of the CEC3 Council members present at the time of the vote (8 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstain)

WHEREAS, Currently, there are 389 NYC Department of Education (DOE) public schools across the five boroughs that offer a total of 607 bilingual education programs in 14 foreign languages;

WHEREAS, on May 3, 2018 the DOE announced 48 new bilingual programs opening in September 2018;

WHEREAS, District 3 currently has 9 Dual Language programs and will add an Italian Dual Language program at PS242 The Young Diplomats Magnet School in September 2018, and expand the existing Mandarin program at PS191 The Riverside School for Makers and Artists, as part of the DOE bilingual expansion;

WHEREAS, the Dual Language model of bilingual education benefits both English Language Learners (ELLs) and those students interested in learning a foreign language, in addition to preparing them for future career opportunities that require speaking or understanding a foreign language;

WHEREAS, while schools receive additional funding to support ELL students, schools do not receive funding to support bilingual education for non-ELL students in dual language programs, resulting in additional financial challenges that schools must overcome;

WHEREAS, operating a dual language program involves additional costs when compared to a general education class, including maintaining textbooks in the targeted language, development of class materials in the targeted language, including translation, classroom and online resources, and costlier dual language specific professional development;

WHEREAS, the additional costs involved remain unfunded, requiring school principals to fund additional costs out of their existing budget;

WHEREAS, a seat in a dual language class is not interchangeable with a seat in a general

education class;

WHEREAS, dual language teachers are required to obtain the bilingual extension of the NYS Education Department Teaching Certificate, but there is insufficient ongoing professional development specific to bilingual teaching offered by the DOE, which would be a significant step in addressing the shortage of certified dual language teachers; and

WHEREAS, becoming bilingual, biliterate and culturally aware provides an advantage in obtaining meaningful employment in the global economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York City Council and the DOE allocate funding that be specifically marked for dual language programs and to support non-ELL students in dual language programs, which includes funding for resources, support and professional development for teachers in dual language programs in DOE managed public schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DOE acknowledge the a seat in a dual language classroom is not interchangeable with a seat in a non-DL classroom and further acknowledge this difference when calculating a dual language school's seat utilization and capacity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DOE increase its support of the recruitment and retention of certified dual language teachers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget process be transparent and offer an opportunity for the parents, students and advocates of dual language programs to provide pertinent input into the process to ensure the needs of dual language programs are being properly met and funded.