



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín
District Manager

March 19, 2019

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Request for the full funding of \$4.1 billion in Foundation Aid statewide

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Community Board 11 strongly support the full funding of \$4.1 billion in Foundation Aid statewide—including the more than \$1.2 billion which is owed to New York City and is urgently needed. The NYS Board of Regents is supporting a three-year phase-in of this funding, including a statewide increase in Foundation Aid of \$1.66 billion immediately in Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

NYC schools, which serve 1.1 million students, currently need \$750 million to make sure all schools receive 100 percent Fair Student Funding. If New York City received the more than \$1.2 billion it is owed, all schools could have 100 percent Fair Student Funding. As you know, the landmark Campaign for Fiscal Equity case, decided in 2006, exposed inequities in New York State's school funding system. New York's highest court ruled that NYS was violating students' constitutional right to a "sound basic education" by underfunding public schools. After more than eleven years, this underfunding persists and our children continue to be denied the funding that would level resources among NYC public schools and its neighbors.

In New York City, seventy percent of our 1.1 million students live in poverty, one in five students is an English language learner, and one in ten is homeless or in temporary housing. Unfortunately, many of these students still have limited access to small class sizes, art, music, sports and college readiness classes. Our children deserve a true commitment to fully fund Foundation Aid so their schools are able to provide them the quality education and resources they require to learn and flourish.

We look forward to seeing this come to fruition in the near future.

Sincerely,

Nilsa Orama
Chair
Community Board 11

cc: Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Ben Kallos, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Hon. Adriano Espalliat, U.S House of Representatives (via email)
Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney US House of Representatives (via email)
David Giordano, Community Board 11
Judith Febbraro, Community Board 11