

425 West 123rd Street – Room 205 • New York, New York 10027  
(212) 769-7500 ext. 234 • (212) 769-7619 fax  
E-Mail: cec5@schools.nyc.gov • website: csd5.nycdoe.org

**RESOLUTION # 58**  
**December 8, 2011**

**Contracts for Excellence**

President, Sonja Jones  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Ernest Bryant Jr.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Jennifer Prince  
Secretary, Ayishah Irvin  
Treasurer, Rita McClinton

Members

Lloyd Burwick  
Dianne Johnson  
Elizabeth Porter  
Ramik Williams

Borough Appointee

Jennifer Prince  
Ramik Williams

Administrative Assistant

Lisa Kinsey

**Whereas**, in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case Judge Leland deGrasse concluded that New York City (NYC) students were deprived of their constitutional right to an adequate education as a result of large class sizes;

**Whereas**, the Contracts for Excellence law passed in 2007 required NYC to reduce class size in all grades in return for receiving billions of dollars in additional state aid;

**Whereas**, smaller classes has been the top priority of parents on the Department of Education (DOE) Learning Environment survey every year it has been given, and 86% of NYC principals say they are unable to provide a quality education because of excessive class size;

**Whereas**, in 2007, the DOE submitted a class size reduction plan calling for average class sizes of no more 20 in grades K-3; 23 in 4-8<sup>th</sup> and 25 in HS;

**Whereas**, DOE has received more than two billion dollars in total C4E funds since 2007; but class sizes have risen sharply in all grades since then;

**Whereas**, this year, which was scheduled to be the final year of the city's 5-year mandated reduction plan, class sizes are the largest in eleven years in the early grades citywide;

**Whereas**, in District 5, class sizes have increased sharply, from below to above the C4E goals since 2007;

**Whereas**, the state and the city scheduled C4E presentations this year after the funds had already been allocated, contrary to the intent of the law;

**Whereas**, there was a pre-approval process, in which DOE submitted its plan to the State Education Department before any public input had occurred, also contrary to the intent of the law;

**Whereas**, the city has refused to hold borough hearings, as required by law, instead providing only brief and inadequate power point presentations before CECs, with insufficient public notice;


**Whereas**, the city and the state have a moral and legal obligation to provide the smaller classes that the state's highest court said was necessary for NYC children to receive their right to a sound basic education;

**Be it resolved** that District 5 protests the failure of the NYC DOE to comply with the Contracts for Excellence law, either in terms of the required public process or the results in class size; and

**Be it resolved**, that District 5 urges the NY State Legislature to hold hearings on the city's failure to reduce class size despite its legal and moral obligation;

**Be it resolved**, that the NY State Education Department should immediately require that DOE use all available funds to hire more teachers and reduce class sizes moving forward, including the \$504 million in C4E funds provided this year.

Adopted by the Community Education Council of District 5  
on this 8 day of DECEMBER 2011

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ayishah Irvin, Secretary