



## **MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT**

**The Education Council Consortium urges the NY Legislature to approve S.6296/ A. 7447 so that NYC public school students are provided with the smaller classes that is their right under the NY State Constitution**

May 23, 2021

The Education Council Consortium consists of members from the Citywide and Community Educational Councils in New York City. Our mission is to achieve an equitable, inclusive, anti-racist public school system which delivers an appropriate and humane education for all students, while elevating the voices of parents.

In 2007, the Department of Education (DOE) instituted surveys in NYC public schools. When parents are asked what changes they would like to see in their children's schools. Class size reduction for grades K-12 has been their top priority. Moreover, the research shows that while all children benefit from smaller classes, those who benefit the most are students of color and those who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities or are multilingual learners. Yet NYC students continue to have their opportunity to learn severely limited by class sizes far larger than those in the rest of the state.

We strongly support the passage of these bills, now that the city is receiving full Foundation Aid, it is crucial that these funds be used to support one of the major goals of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) lawsuit, in which the NY Court of Appeals concluded in 2003 that NYC public school class sizes were too large to provide students with their right to a sound basic education.

The Contracts for Excellence Law passed in 2007, and though it contained a requirement that NYC schools should create a five-year class size reduction plan, this plan was never followed. This was partly due to the fact that the full funding promised was never realized.

Now that the funding has been provided, this bill would reset the clock and require the city to actually begin to lower class size.

We urge the Legislature to ensure that the city's children are no longer deprived of the benefits of having smaller class sizes, just like the rest of New York state students already receive, thus ensuring their right to a sound basic education.

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