



February 14, 2022

Dear Legislator:

Class Size Matters, the Education Law Center, the Alliance for Quality Education, and NYC Kids PAC would like to thank you for committing to fully funding the Foundation Aid Formula, so that New York City schools and other high-need districts can receive adequate and equitable funding. Now it is time to ensure that these funds are spent with full accountability, so that our students are provided with the opportunity for a “sound basic education,” as mandated by New York’s Constitution. To achieve this end, we urge you to include in your one house budget requirements that New York City develop and implement a class size reduction plan, with class size caps to be phased in over five years, as laid out in S6296A and A7447A.

In 2003, New York State’s highest court in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case concluded that class sizes in the city’s public schools were too large to provide students with their right to a sound basic education under the State constitution. Yet since then, class sizes have increased rather than decreased.

The research is crystal clear that smaller classes lead to improved educational and life outcomes in every way that can be measured, including better grades, higher graduation rates, more students enrolled in college, and higher earnings. Moreover, those students who need help the most also gain the greatest benefits: children from low-income families, Black and brown students, students with disabilities, and English Learners, who make up the majority of students in the city’s public schools.

Given that New York City is now due to receive full Foundation Aid funding, it is time that the Legislature ensure that the right of these students to small classes is also finally fulfilled.

Yours,

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