

**COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION  
COUNCIL  
DISTRICT 31**

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*District  
Superintendent*

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**COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 31**

**Resolution on School Safety**

**Approved at the December, 5th 2022 CEC31 Calendar Meeting  
by a roll call vote of all members present (10 in favor / 0 opposed / 0 abstain)**

This resolution is in response to the rise of violence related incidents in our District Public Schools during the 2022-2023 school year and over the concerns that have been raised by Council members, parents, teachers, students, law enforcement personnel, education officials and advocates regarding security in NYC public schools

**WHEREAS**, Community Education Council of District 31 supports the right of students and staff to attend schools that are safe and free from violence and harassment, especially life-threatening forms of violence; and

**WHEREAS**, student safety is a prerequisite for consistently high levels of academic and social development; and violence and harassment can not only alienate students from their peers and their environment, thereby impeding learning; and

**WHEREAS**, all students deserve access to services that support and enhance their physical, mental and emotional health; and

**WHEREAS**, current public school security consists of unarmed, uniformed New York Police Department (NYPD) school safety agents, with most NYC elementary schools and Middle Schools having an inadequate number of school safety agent assigned; and

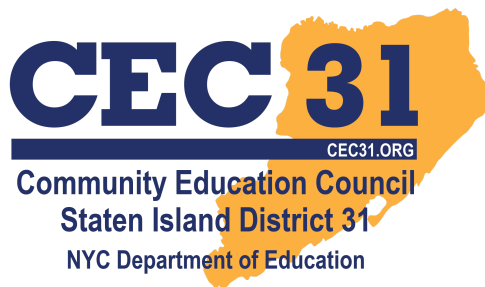
**WHEREAS**, current public school entry procedures allow individuals to enter school buildings through an unlocked door at the main entrance, with the first point of visitor verification at the security desk - located beyond the entrance, inside the school building - where visitors are required to show identification; and

**WHEREAS**, Staten Island is the only borough without a full time Student Suspension Office with the Staten Island cases being heard in Brooklyn; and

**WHEREAS**, presently, more than fifty (50) percent of the cases handled in the Brooklyn/Staten Island Office are generated by Staten Island Schools requiring school officials, school safety agents, respondents, student witnesses and parents to travel to Brooklyn for the hearings.

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**WHEREAS**, positive approaches to school climate and discipline include training in trauma-informed practices; child and adolescent development and psychology; comprehensive youth development practices and programming; conflict resolution and peer mediation; de-escalation techniques; violence prevention and intervention; intergroup and interethnic conflict, intervention and truce-building strategies are effective strategies for building safe schools with restorative and transformative justice practices; school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports; and/or other positive approaches to school climate and discipline; and

**WHEREAS**, the most effective approach to creating safe school environments is a comprehensive, coordinated effort including schoolwide, districtwide and communitywide strategies supplemented with legislation, resources and support at the state and federal legislative levels; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Community Education Council urges the state of New York and the United States Congress to increase funding for wraparound services to prevent bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence in our schools and to provide funding for programs and staff such as counselors, nurses and psychologists, that support students' mental, physical and emotional health; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New York City Department of Education (DOE) prioritize school safety within its budget and budget planning, including increased funding for counselors, mental health staff, psychologists and social workers in our schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council of District 31 requests the District Superintendent with the approval of the Chancellor, to maximize partnerships with community based organizations and health services to help our students and families de-escalate violence, provide onsite trauma services and offer who need support with social-emotional and other non-instructional issues; and

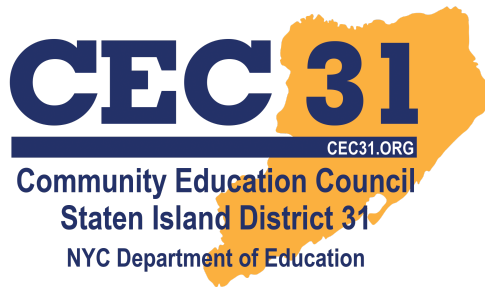
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council of District 31 requests the District Superintendent with the approval of the Chancellor, to continue to work with a broad spectrum of local community stakeholders, local emergency responders and law enforcement, mental health professionals, parents, students, teachers and staff to take any threats of violence seriously and to develop, implement and monitor policies and programs that foster and support a positive school climate, free from harassment and violence; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District Attorney's Office attend the monthly District Building Response Team Meetings and adopt a comprehensive plan to ensure partnership with the District Superintendent to ensure safety in our schools; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council of District 31 requests that all students be made aware of the three evacuation sites as dictated in the School Safety Plan so that they may seek safe haven should an incident occur outside of school property; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Community Education Council urges the New York City DOE to increase the number of School Safety agents assigned to Staten Island schools and the amount of agents at each school; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Community Education Council of District 31 requests alternative methods of metrics to use to determine officer staffing levels as the current incident metric is not reflective of individual school needs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Community Education Council of District 31 believes that school safety agents should have the opportunity to view a person requesting entry before the visitor gains access to any part of the building; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Community Education Council of District 31 supports the New York City's DOE's pilot program for a locked door "buzzer" entry system that includes a system with video camera, video capture for future recognition, direct link to emergency dispatchers in order to provide valuable lead-time in a potentially critical situation, and emergency access for NYPD/FDNY; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Community Education Council requests that the NYPD and the New York City DOE consider the implementation of regularly scheduled randomized and/or permanent scanning systems within all our District Middle Schools; and

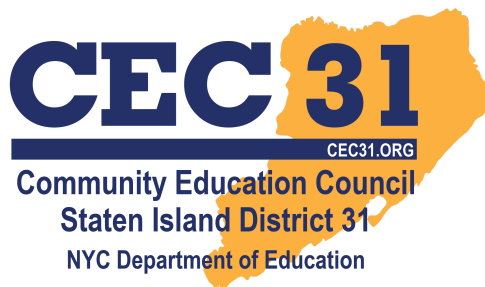
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Community Education Council requests that the NYPD and the New York City DOE consider the implementation of regularly scheduled NYPD patrols of school grounds; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New York City DOE reinstate the expulsion clause as part of the discipline code after egregious acts of violence and causing harm to self and others; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, Community Education Council of District 31 requests an independent, autonomous full time Superintendent Suspension Hearing Office on Staten Island be opened to better serve the needs of families, students, faculty, and staff throughout the borough

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the independent, autonomous full time Staten Island Student Suspension Office be staffed with a Staten Island Student Suspension Director, Early Resolution Counselors, Hearing Officers, Supervising Attorney, School Safety Agents, Clerks and Receptionist.

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