



The Alliance for Quality Education (AQE) is a member of the People's Plan coalition, fighting for a bold vision for a budget that invests in education, mental health, housing-first policies, and immigrant protections—not Mayor Eric Adams's failed austerity agenda and his collusion with President Trump. See the full People's Plan platform [here](#). In addition, AQE is a member of the Coalition for Equitable Education Funding (CEEF) fighting to ensure important education programs and services are funded and baseline in the city budget.

**Investments in K-12 Public Education:** Protecting schools and education budgets from cuts.

- **Community Schools:** Provide wrap-around services, such as after-school programming, adult education classes, and healthcare to students and their families. **(\$14M)**
- **Restorative Justice:** Implement restorative justice practices to improve school climate, reduce suspensions, and address conflicts through reparative methods. **(\$12M)**
- **Mental Health Continuum:** Offer a range of mental health services within schools to support students' emotional well-being and address mental health challenges. **(\$5M)**
- **Immigrant Family Communications and Outreach:** Ensure immigrant families are informed and engaged in their children's education. **(\$4M)**
- **Student Success Centers :** Allowing trained youth leaders to build a culture of college-going in 34 high schools and help their peers with the college admissions process. **(\$3.3M)**
- **Summer Programming:** Provides students with recreational activities, arts, and field trips, in addition to academic enrichment. Baseline funding to ensure continuity and stability. **(\$80M)**
- **Learning to Work :** Programs provide support to over-age, under-credited students to help them earn a high school diploma and develop a post-secondary plan. Baseline funding to ensure continuity and stability. **(\$31M)**

**Early Education Restoration (\$222M):** Restore universal 3K, Pre-K and childcare with funding for outreach. Ensure salary parity and timely payments for early childhood workers.

- **Restore 3-K (\$112M):** Reinstate funding to preserve free, high-quality 3-K programs and prevent families from losing access to early education.
- **Preschool Special Education (\$55M):** Fund special education preschool classes to meet growing demand and provide necessary support for children with disabilities.



- **Extended Day/Year 3-K & Pre-K (\$25M):** Increase seats for extended day and year-round early childhood programs for more accessible, full-day options.
- **Early Childhood Outreach (\$5M):** Strengthen outreach efforts to connect families with available early childhood education programs and resources.

### **Additional Necessary Investments:**

#### **Child Care Assistance Shortfall (\$328M):**

Additional investment in the Child Care Assistance Program to prevent thousands of NYC families from being kicked off child care assistance (CCAP), and to end NY's inequitable exclusion of families earning equal to less than the minimum wage, and those who work fluctuating hours, from CCAP eligibility.

This amount might prevent the most severe disruptions, and provide NYC additional time to figure out a longer term strategy.

The State added money for NYC's CCAP, but the city cannot access the funds unless it also provides matching funding.

### **Fair Student Funding**

The Fair Student Funding formula was implemented in 2007 and has had the same base foundation amount since then, only providing funding for two administrative positions, namely, the principal and a secretary.

**Increase the base foundation funding:** We echo the demands from the 2023 Fair Student Funding Working Group which proposed increasing the base foundation amount for schools to adequately fund positions to operate each school. The intention is to expand what is considered a "base" level of staff positions that every school requires to not just operate, but thrive. Increased base funding would be directed to hiring critical school positions, including social workers, guidance counselors and other critical staff that otherwise would be excessed when budget cuts are enacted.

The city can pursue a **low model** where the current base (\$225,000) can be **raised by \$105,000** (the approximate cost of a social worker) which would increase the base weight of \$330,000 per school. Or it can pursue a **high model, raising the base weight by \$345,000** (the approximate cost of a social worker, guidance counselor and Assistant Principal) which would create a new total base weight of \$570,000 per school.



### **Small class sizes**

The City Council must hold the School Construction Authority accountable for developing a capital plan that contains a comprehensive and specific roadmap toward expanding facilities capacity in order to increase new seats in compliance with the new class size mandates.

- In conjunction with this, City Council should call on DOE to more equitably distribute enrollment among nearby schools, which would lessen the need for new seats.
- Additionally, we believe that increased oversight is called for to ensure that SCA is adhering to governance guidelines and that their results and timelines are measuring up with substantial taxpayer investment. (Unknown cost due to lack of transparency in capital plans)

### **Safe and Supportive Schools**

We stand in solidarity with the Dignity in Schools coalition calling for:

- the expansion of school-based restorative justice and social emotional supports,
- the redirection of money away from policing and surveillance, as well as
- protecting the safety of immigrant students and parents

In addition, we are also unequivocally opposed to the hiring of Assistant School Safety Agents (ASSAs) in New York City public schools. Employing school cops is inappropriate for schools, regardless of age. However, Assistant School Safety Agents will be between the ages of 17 and 21—an age range during which emotional regulation, impulse control, and executive functioning are still developing. These young adults deserve better employment opportunities and pipelines that don't lead to poverty wages in high-stress roles for which they will not be properly trained or developmentally prepared.

**AQE demands are to immediately cease all hiring of Assistant School Safety Agents and reallocate and redirect that funding to:**

- Restorative justice coordinators, peer mediators, and youth stipends.
- Mental health access, including clinics, wellness centers, social workers, therapists, etc.
- Protections and services for immigrant students and families.
- Well-paying community staff roles and other community-led safety initiatives.

**Restorative justice:** By fostering trust, accountability, and healing, [fully invested in] restorative justice practices can transform schools into spaces that cultivate students' growth and maximize their well-being.

However, current funding levels provide only for piecemeal training and programming, leaving the vast majority of schools with no staff trained in these best practices. Commitment to and



funding for a school-led restorative justice model will make schools safer for all students. We demand accessible school-based jobs that support students, contribute to the safety of our school communities, and hire Black and Brown community members and pay them well.

**\$80M directly to 500 high schools to hire school-based Restorative Justice Coordinators.**

- Increase funding by \$55M a year for the next 3 years to have an RJ Coordinator in all public schools, ultimately a sustained annual expense of \$240M.

**Further investment in preschool special education**

We echo the call by Advocates for Children to provide preschoolers with disabilities with the evaluations, services, and classes they need, given the thousands of preschoolers with disabilities currently waiting for their mandated services to begin, a challenge highlighted in a recent City Council statement (**\$70M**).