



**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Marion Wilson
*District
Superintendent*

OFFICERS

Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

James Desiderato
Vice President

Frank Marino
2nd Vice President

Yekaterina Slobodkin
Recording Secretary

Joseph Bird
*Treasurer
IEP Representative*

Amanda Wolkowitz
D75 Representative

**Daniella Caputo
Teresa Cirelli**
*Borough President's
Appointees*

COUNCIL MEMBERS
**Melissa Cosentino
Andrew Guido**

STUDENT MEMBERS
**Princess Abomeli
Carina Fu**

VACANT
**ELL Representative
D31 Representative**

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Leah Stumpf

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 31
Resolution on Mandates for Mental Health Resources,
Supports and Social Emotional Learning Curriculum**

Approved at the June 5th 2023 Calendar Meeting
by a roll call vote of all members present (6 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstain)

Amended at the March 4th 2024 Calendar Meeting
by a roll call vote of all members present (11 in favor, 0 opposed)

WHEREAS, New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE) focused on the student mental health crisis following the COVID-19 Pandemic and because the mental health struggles of our students following the Pandemic are still ongoing; and

WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year. 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14¹; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Social Workers recommends a ratio of one school mental health worker for up to 250 general education students, and a ratio of 1:50 for workers providing services to students with special needs²; and

WHEREAS, the District 31 Superintendent presented the State of the District to the Community Education Council for District 31 (CEC31) and provided data to show that Staten Island has had the highest number of suicide attempts and completions in the last five years, as well as a 11.6% increase in suicide ideation during the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA), platform designed to identify significant emotional issues and help identify individuals who needed more intensive interventions and support is being discontinued by the NYC DOE as of the 2023-2024 school year; and

¹ <https://www.nami.org/mhstats>

² <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1Ze4-9-Os7E%3D&portalid=0>

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 31

715 Ocean Terrace | Room 117 | Staten Island, New York 10301
Tel (718) 420-5746 | Fax (718) 420-5745 | Email CEC31@schools.nyc.gov | Web CEC31.org



**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Marion Wilson
*District
Superintendent*

OFFICERS
Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

James Desiderato
Vice President

Frank Marino
2nd Vice President

Yekaterina Slobodkin
Recording Secretary

Joseph Bird
Treasurer
IEP Representative

Amanda Wolkowitz
D75 Representative

Daniella Caputo
Teresa Cirelli
*Borough President's
Appointees*

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Melissa Cosentino
Andrew Guido

STUDENT MEMBERS
Princess Abomeli
Carina Fu

VACANT
ELL Representative
D31 Representative

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Leah Stumpf

WHEREAS, implementing a district wide mental health curriculum that helps to socialize mental health issues and provides early-detection training to teachers and administrators has become critical; and

WHEREAS, Student mental health impacts student learning, the school's social environment and school safety; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, CEC31 requests that the NYC DOE Chancellor and District Superintendent provide baseline funding for a mental health professional in each NYC school with a ratio of at least one (1) mental health professional for every 250 students; and be it further

RESOLVED, CEC31 requests that New York State Legislature allocate additional funding to school budgets to help pay for mental health experts and mental health professional and mental health coordinator positions for each district and charter school by the 2024-25 school year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CEC31 urges the District Superintendent and NYC DOE to utilize the existing Multi Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to evaluate and implement a mandated District wide program that provides the same level of supports regardless of the school students attend; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the proposed mandated mental health curriculum recognizes the impact of negative social and emotional attitudes toward counseling and therapy and provides training to school-based staff identifying and referring cases of students in need of services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CEC31 supports creating a student-led collective grades 6-12 that is focused on mental health wellness in order to advocate for School and District wide approaches to address health and well-being inequities, as well as provide tools and training opportunities for Staten Island students to lead community change efforts; and be it further

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 31

715 Ocean Terrace | Room 117 | Staten Island, New York 10301
Tel (718) 420-5746 | Fax (718) 420-5745 | Email CEC31@schools.nyc.gov | Web CEC31.org



**COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 31**

Dr. Marion Wilson
*District
Superintendent*

OFFICERS
Lucia Curatolo-Boylan
President

James Desiderato
Vice President

Frank Marino
2nd Vice President

Yekaterina Slobodkin
Recording Secretary

Joseph Bird
Treasurer
IEP Representative

Amanda Wolkowitz
D75 Representative

Daniella Caputo
Teresa Cirelli
*Borough President's
Appointees*

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Melissa Cosentino
Andrew Guido

STUDENT MEMBERS
Princess Abomeli
Carina Fu

VACANT
ELL Representative
D31 Representative

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT**
Leah Stumpf

RESOLVED, that CEC31 supports the implementation of a yearly Staten Island Mental Health Awareness symposium with the goal being to bring together District administrators, community leaders, mental health providers, public policy leaders, the student wellness collective, philanthropists and experts in mental health education to begin and then maintain an ongoing dialogue that develops an actionable blueprint for addressing the mental health crisis in Staten Island Schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CEC31 requests that the District Superintendent and our NYC DOE Chancellor ensure all elementary and middle school students are provided a daily opportunity for at least 20 minutes of physical activity or exertion to aid in the holistic wellbeing and mental wellness of our students; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CEC31 urges the District Superintendent to engage students across all age bands in a discussion to better comprehend which mental health supports are most meaningful and effective for students, to provide adequate mental health services, mental health literacy and programmatic support.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 31

715 Ocean Terrace | Room 117 | Staten Island, New York 10301
Tel (718) 420-5746 | Fax (718) 420-5745 | Email CEC31@schools.nyc.gov | Web CEC31.org