



COMMUNITY EDUCATION DISTRICT COUNCIL 30

28-11 Queens Plaza North, Room 512
Long Island City, NY 11101
Tel: 718-391-8380
Fax: 718-391-8500
CEC30.org
Email: CEC30@schools.nyc.gov

Resolution 211

Resolution Urging Governor Hochul to NOT Opt In to the “Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit Program” under Donald Trump’s “Big Beautiful Bill”

Author: Alexis Kaloyanides

Co-Sponsors: Whitney Toussaint, Victoria Medelius, Kayla Spence, Estela Nguema, Xochitl Cohen-Garcia

WHEREAS, the “Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit Program” (the Voucher Program), a provision of the “Big Beautiful Bill” signed into law by Donald Trump in 2025, allows taxpayers to receive a tax credit of up to \$1,700 for the value of cash contributions they make to certain scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) that use a portion of those contributions to grant scholarships to students at private K-12 schools located within their states; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible for a scholarship under the Voucher Program the income of a students' family must be below 300% of their area median income, [which means that in New York City families with annual incomes of up to \\$312,900 would be eligible to receive scholarships from this Voucher Program to attend a private school](#)¹ (families in Westchester County with annual incomes of up to \$510,000 would be eligible); and

WHEREAS, [75.3% of New York City public school students are considered economically disadvantaged](#)², meaning they come from households with annual incomes below 30% of the area median income ([which for a family of four would be \\$61,050](#))³ and those students are not prioritized for scholarships under the Voucher Program; and

WHEREAS, state governors have the choice to opt in to the Voucher Program and [Governor Kathy Hochul has announced her intention to opt in](#)⁴; and

WHEREAS, in other states with school voucher programs, the vast majority of voucher recipients have been students who were never enrolled in a public school, including [Arizona \(71% of students\)](#)⁵, [Arkansas \(95% of students\)](#)⁵, [Florida \(69% of students\)](#)⁶, [Iowa \(78.5% of students\)](#)⁷, [New Hampshire \(89% of students\)](#)⁸, [Texas \(75% of students\)](#)⁹, and [Wisconsin \(75% of students\)](#)¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, in other states, including [Florida](#)¹¹, [Indiana](#)¹², [North Carolina](#)¹³, the Voucher Program uses tax dollars to discriminate against students and families; and



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WHEREAS, charitable donations are generally deductible from taxable income, resulting in a subsidy for charitable giving by taxpayers based on their tax rate, but [the dollar-for-dollar tax credit for these donations to SGOs will privilege charitable giving to private schools over charitable giving to other worthy causes, such as food banks, homeless shelters, etc.](#)¹⁴; and

WHEREAS, [SGOs are permitted to retain 10% of the contributions they receive](#)¹⁵, reducing the amount that benefits students; and

WHEREAS, while no New York State government funds would be used to support the Voucher Program, the total federal spending on the Voucher Program is estimated to amount to anywhere from \$5 billion to over \$100 billion ([as there is no aggregate cap on the Voucher Program, it is difficult to estimate the full impact on the federal budget](#)¹⁶), and even at the lower end of these estimates this is more than the federal government allocates to either of its largest educational programs — [Title I, Part A, which supports schools with large percentages of low income students](#)¹⁷, and the [Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act](#)¹⁸; and

WHEREAS, since “money does not grow on trees”, [the expansion the Voucher Program will divert public funds away from public programs and allow them to be used in ways that undermine civil rights protections, weaken public education systems, and exacerbate longstanding educational inequities](#)¹⁹, including limiting spending on other federal programs that might support [students with disabilities](#)²⁰, [low income students](#)²¹, or others; and

WHEREAS, [according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office](#)²², the tax cuts provided under the “Big Beautiful Bill”, of which the Voucher Program constitutes one part, will increase the federal deficit by \$2.8 trillion, burdening future generations; and

WHEREAS, the tax cuts/credits provided under the “Big Beautiful Bill”, including those tax credits provided under the Voucher Program, [are financed in part by deep cuts in federal support for health insurance for low-income Americans under Medicaid \(\\$700 billion\) and for benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(\\$267 billion\)](#)²³, resulting in harm to low-income students whose families need such assistance for their health and well-being.

WHEREAS, the 2024 Democratic National Committee platform explicitly opposed [“private-school vouchers, tuition tax credits, opportunity scholarships, and other schemes that divert taxpayer-funded resources away from public education](#)²⁴” and into private institutions that are not subject to the same standards of accountability, transparency, civil rights protections or democratic oversights as public schools; and



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WHEREAS, [New York State United Teachers](#), the state's largest teachers' union, warns that the [Voucher Program will benefit private interests while undermining the public schools that serve 90% of New York State's children](#)²⁵; and

WHEREAS, Community Education Councils are charged with representing the interests of a diverse array of families and advocating for public educational policies that support students from all backgrounds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council 30 urges Governor Hochul to not opt in to the Voucher Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council 30 will share this resolution with the State Assembly and Senate Committees on Education and urge them to send a similar directive to Governor Hochul.

References

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Adopted this 14th day of September, 2026, by the CEC 30.

Rollcall:

Linda Chung-Leung: IN FAVOR
Xochitl Cohen-Garcia: IN FAVOR
Alexis Kaloyanides: IN FAVOR
Danielle Lopresti-Lee: IN FAVOR
Victoria Medelius: IN FAVOR
Estela Nguema: IN FAVOR
Marlene Rossi: IN FAVOR
Nadeea Saeed: IN FAVOR
Laura Simpson: IN FAVOR
Kayla Spence: IN FAVOR
Whitney Toussaint: IN FAVOR