

Community Education Council District 26

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Resolution to Prevent Anti-Asian Racism and Bullying in Schools

Approved on October 21, 2021

WHEREAS, racist rhetoric repeated in the media since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a surge of anti-Asian hate crimes in New York City; and

WHEREAS, New York City (NYC) reported the largest increase of anti-Asian hate crimes, documenting a 223% increase in anti-Asian hate crimes compared to the same period in the previous year ¹; and

WHEREAS, NYC schools are home to 170,000 students of Asian heritage ²; and

WHEREAS, the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) has promised to provide a safe, supportive, and respectful learning environment, such that racial and ethnic diversity is embraced ³; and

WHEREAS, Community Education Council 26 (CEC26) values the diverse cultures and heritage of the Asian American community, which includes our students, families, and staff; and

WHEREAS, CEC26 recognizes that the Asian American community has endured continued bigotry and xenophobia since the founding of our nation ⁴; and be it further

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association confirms that the historical racism experienced by Asian Americans has caused suffering in the form of psychological trauma, feelings of societal invisibility, and severe mental health issues ⁵; and

WHEREAS, Asian-Americans are often reluctant to report bullying due to language barriers ⁶; and

WHEREAS, CEC26 recognizes the efforts of the District 26 Superintendent in taking tangible actions to address anti-Asian hate,

WHEREAS, CEC26 understands the role the Mayor and Chancellor have in preventing racism by teaching children to value diversity; and

WHEREAS, District 26 parents submitted a petition to the Mayor and Chancellor in April 2021, demanding school curriculums citywide be more inclusive of Asian-American experiences and contributions: and ²

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/05/us/anti-asian-hate-crimes-study/index.html>

² <https://gothamist.com/news/its-blattant-invisibility-students-and-parents-call-for-asian-american-studies-at-nyc-schools>

³ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/vision-and-mission>

⁴ <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/03/a-long-history-of-bigotry-against-asian-americans/>

⁵ <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2021/07/impact-anti-asian-racism>

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/18/nyregion/asian-hate-crimes.html>

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Chancellor’s response to the petition was minimal in preventing anti-Asian racism; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has already implemented the TEAACH Act,⁷ mandating changes into the school curriculum to include the full Asian-American experience throughout United States history; and

WHEREAS, New York State Senator John Liu introduced a similar Senate Bill, S6359A, “requiring public elementary and high schools to provide instruction in Asian American history and civic impact”⁸; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the CEC26 demands the Chancellor and Mayor take citywide actions to prevent anti-Asian racism as follows:

1. Adopt the provisions of the NYS (New York State) Senate Bill S6359A citywide,
2. Implement programs for public schools citywide to acknowledge the Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage month by including appropriate lesson plans and celebrations,
3. Provide professional development for teachers, parents, and school leaders in cultural awareness of the AAPI community and its history,
4. Expand workshops on implicit bias training,
5. Create more offerings of dual-language programs and foreign language programs in Asian languages, and
6. Develop a system to report incidents of bullying for those parents whose primary language is not English.

This Resolution was approved at October 21, 2021 Calendar Meeting.

CEC 26 Members Present:

Voted Yes:

Alan Ong, Dilip Nath, Jennifer Catherall, Adriana Aviles, Taeho Hwang, Norman Cohn, Dennis Chan, Sulinda Hong, and Albert Suhu.

Abstain:

Todd Friedman

⁷ <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=648&GAID=16&DocTypeID=SB&SessionID=110&GA=102>

⁸ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s6359#:~:text=BILL%20NUMBER%3A%20S6359A%20REVISED%2004,elementary%20and%20high%20schools%20to>