



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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<i>Council Members:</i> Norman Cohn Jennifer Catherall	Sulinda Hong Dilip Nath Winnie Sun	<i>Student Member:</i> Mollie Grodsky	<i>District 26 Community Superintendent:</i> Danielle Giunta	

Resolution Supporting NYC Council Resolution 331 Recognizing Lunar New Year as a Public Holiday

WHEREAS, the Lunar New Year is celebrated by an estimated 2 billion people worldwide, including the Asian communities established by immigrants from countries including China, Korea, Vietnam, and othersⁱ, and;

WHEREAS, the Lunar New Year is the most prominent and significant holiday in many Asian cultures, celebrating the arrival of the spring season and the marking of the new yearⁱⁱ; and,

WHEREAS, the Demographic Snapshot of the Department of Education (DOE) indicates 54% of the students in District 26 as Asian, while accounting for 16% citywideⁱⁱⁱ, and;

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Grace Meng (D-Queens) reintroduced legislation on Jan 19, 2023 to declare the Lunar New Year a federal holiday^{iv}, and;

WHEREAS, several bills are under consideration in the 2023-24 session of the the New York State legislature to declare the Lunar New Year a public holiday in New York State, including:

- S2352/A1275 sponsored by Senator Brian Kavanaugh/Assemblymember Aaron Colton to declare the Asian Lunar New Year a public holiday^v
- A4913 sponsored by Assemblymember Lester Chang to declare the Asian Lunar New Year a public holiday^{vi}
- S2208/A468 sponsored by Senator John Liu/Assemblymember David Weprin to observe all religious holidays, including the Lunar New Year, within the public universities in New York, SUNY & CUNY^{vii}, and;

WHEREAS, the New York City Council passed two resolutions on February 2, 2023:

- Resolution 0424-2022 sponsored by Councilmember Sandra Ung “Resolution calling on the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, H.R. 430, establishing Lunar New Year Day as a Federal holiday.^{viii}”
- Resolution 0331-2022 sponsored by Councilmember Christopher Marte “Recognizing Lunar New Year as an annual school holiday and as an official holiday in the City of New York.^{ix},” and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Education Council 26 (CEC26) urges the City Council to introduce a bill recognizing the Lunar New Year as an annual school holiday and as an official holiday in the City of New York, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 26 urges Mayor Adams to sign such bill into law.

ⁱ <https://time.com/6248736/lunar-new-year-celebrations/>

ⁱⁱ <https://asia.si.edu/lunar-new-year-celebration/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/school-quality/information-and-data-overview>

^{iv} <https://meng.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/meng-reintroduces-legislation-to-make-lunar-new-year-a-federal-holiday>

^v <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/a1275>

^{vi} https://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=&bn=A04913&term=&Summary=Y

^{vii} <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/s2208>

^{viii} <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5958290&GUID=E649F8D1-7754-48F8-8C1E-7306D138C005&Options=&Search=>

^{ix} <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5858576&GUID=1C52E987-6180-46EE-9EE2-537951917091&Options=&Search=>

*Community Education Council District 26 approved this resolution on April 18, at the monthly meeting.
Yes: Albert Suhu, Cassandra Louie, Winnie Sun, Sulinda Hong, Todd Friedman, Adriana Aviles, Norman Cohn and
Jennifer Catherall.*