



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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Statement Denouncing Hateful Rhetoric in Schools Following the Oct 7, 2023 Attacks in Israel

District 26 is the home for families of many different ethnic and religious backgrounds. The attacks in Israel on Oct 7, 2023 have caused considerable pain and anxiety for our Jewish neighbors, especially those with family and friends residing in Israel. The ensuing violence have taken the lives of the innocent, both Jewish and Muslim men, women and children. The Council deeply expresses sympathy for our Jewish and Muslim neighbors, and hopes for a lasting cessation of the violence.

In the past few weeks, there have been disturbing reports of hateful rhetoric arising from the situation in Israel that is circulating at educational institutions nationwide, including New York City. Such language is abhorrent and should not be tolerated in our schools. On Oct 26, 2023, Mayor Adams and Chancellor Banks issued a statement regarding hateful rhetoric in New York City schools.¹ The Chancellor stated that he has asked superintendents to work with principals to ensure that cultural sensitivity and unbiased dialogue is promoted in classrooms. The Council expresses full support for the Chancellor's directive.

During the CEC26 meeting held on November 8, 2023 , the resolution was reviewed and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

¹ <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/823-23/mayor-adams-chancellor-banks-on-growing-reports-hateful-rhetoric-nyc-schools>