

Community Education Council District 8

New York City Department of Education

PS 182, 601 Stickball Boulevard Rm 112, Bronx, NY 10473 | Telephone: (718) 239-5895 Fax: (718) 409-6967 | Email: cec8@schools.nyc.gov

Farah Despeignes, President

Jennifer Joynt, District Superintendent

Lourdes Jibodh, Vice President, BPA

Latoya Coleman, 2nd Vice President/ IEP

Sandra DeJesus, Treasurer

Gina Staton, Secretary

Members

Crystal Brockington

Sabrina Rocchio

Aurora Ronda, BPA

Jadali Small, Student

Resolution #5: February 16th, 2022

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 8 (CEC D8)

Resolution in support of: Restructuring of ACS

Whereas, parents have been harassed with ACS throughout this pandemic; and

Whereas, parents in poor communities, especially poor BIPOC communities have always been harassed by ACS as ACS is often utilized by school officials as a weapon; and

Whereas, Senator Jabari Brisport has a bill in committee that mandates that ACS explain to parents their rights; and

Whereas, parents must know that they don't have to do anything with ACS unless court ordered, which puts the burden of plausibility on ACS and the mandated reporter; and

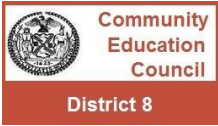
Whereas, no mandated reporter should leverage ACS against a parent for the purpose of bullying a parent; and

Whereas, too many of these mandated reporters don't really know when they should be calling ACS; and

Whereas, ACS should not be weaponized against poor parents who are receiving government assistance – as one of the biggest problems we have in poor schools and poor communities is the intersection of too many government agencies that actually criminalize and brutalize parents more than they help; and

Whereas, unfairly calling ACS on parents should be illegal and should have dire legal consequences - because the consequences are often dire for the families who end up separated, and the children who end up abused in the foster care system, or end up homeless or victims of sex trafficking; and

Whereas, state laws regarding ACS need real policy changes, which would specify serious consequences, such as including but not limited to fines, professional disciplinary actions and criminal charges and imprisonment if found guilty for any mandated reporter or ACS caseworker who frivolously abuses ACS; therefore,



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Be it resolved, for the reasons set forth above, CEC 8 hereby supports Senate Bill S5484A in the 2021-2022 Legislative Session, which is now in committee and requires child protective services to orally and in writing disclose certain information regarding their rights to parents and caretakers who are the subject of a child protective services investigation; and

Be it further resolved, CEC 8 will embark on a few initiatives to not only support Senate Bill S5484A, but to pressure Senator Brisport to amend the bill to include legal consequences for those mandated reporters who abuse and weaponize ACS against parents.

Be it further resolved, CEC 8 will help garner parent and community support for this bill through 1) Holding a forum at which the DOE and Bronx DOE officials will answer questions for our parents about how they decide which situations are worthy of an ACS case. 2) Holding a forum at which ACS officials will explain to our parents their procedures during this pandemic, especially when a parent has made it clear that s/he is homeschooling or not sending a child to school as a COVID safety measure. 3) Holding a forum to explain to parents their rights when a school official threatens ACS action and when ACS comes knocking. And 4) Writing op-eds as parent leaders and getting the media to shine a light on this problem.

Motioned by Aurora Ronda, 2nd by Sabrina Rocchio

Passed by 7 members