

DRAFT

**Proposed Resolution to Rescind the Elimination of the Gifted & Talented Program
and Support Expansion of the Program, and
Expanding Enrichment Opportunities For All Students**

WHEREAS, under New York Education Law 4452, “gifted pupils” shall mean those pupils who show evidence of high-performance capability and exceptional potential in areas such as general intellectual ability, special academic aptitude, and outstanding ability in visual and performing arts. Such definition shall include those pupils who require educational programs or services beyond those normally provided¹; and

WHEREAS, before the recent elimination of the Gifted & Talented program (hereafter referred to as G&T), the New York City Department of Education website stated that “the goal of the New York City Department’s G&T program is to deliver accelerated, rigorous, and specialized instruction” for G&T students; and

WHEREAS, District 28 already has multiple successful G&T programs in elementary schools and middle schools; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2021, Mayor deBlasio and Chancellor announced an immediate phasing out of the G&T program but failed to engage or make any efforts to facilitate feedback from the community as promised prior to the cancellation; and

WHEREAS, the absence of communication with our community and parents demonstrates the lack of transparency in the Mayor and Chancellor’s planning and decision-making process; and

WHEREAS, Mayor-elect Eric Adams has publicly said that he supports the expansion of the Gifted & Talented program in the October 20, 2021 Mayoral Debate² and as per other media reporting³; and

WHEREAS, Mayor-elect Eric Adams has previously recommended increased geographic access to Gifted & Talented programs per the 2017 report he co-authored with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., *Fixing the Pipeline: Solutions to Disparities in Gifted Education in New York City* ⁴ in which one finding was that “All communities must have equal access to G&T programs in kindergarten. For far too long, the DOE has not done enough to ensure that G&T classes exist in the earliest grades in every community in this city. A student’s zip code should not decide whether or not they have access to an accelerated learning environment, and these programs should be available from the kindergarten level upwards.”

WHEREAS, Mayor-elect Eric Adams has campaigned on providing more access to arts and culture for all students (not only G&T) so that they may be “given more freedom to fully develop their personhood within the context of their education.” ⁵

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Education Council District 28 (CEC 28) supports Mayor-elect Eric Adams’ proposed plan to immediately rescind the decision made by current Mayor deBlasio and Chancellor Meisha Porter to eliminate the G&T program and to fully reinstate and expand the G&T program for the 2022-23 school year.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CEC 28 supports Mayor-elect Eric Adams’ earlier proposition to increase geographic access so that G&T programs are equally accessible to all communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, CEC 28 supports Mayor-elect Adams’ plan to expand enrichment opportunities to all students even if not participating in a G&T program so all students have increased opportunities and support to develop their personhood.

References:

1. NYS Education Law 4452: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/EDN/4452>
2. October 20, 2021 Mayoral Debate: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llsiLn1YMpk>
3. Additional media reporting:
<https://pix11.com/news/local-news/new-yorks-likely-new-mayor-plans-to-preserve-gifted-program/>
4. “Fixing the Pipeline: Solutions to Disparities in Gifted Education in New York City” by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., page 5:
<https://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/pdf/bx-bk-bps-GiftedTalentedReport17.pdf>
5. Campaign website: <https://ericadams2021.com/erics-education-plan/>