



Community Education Council 24

Mosaic Pre-K Center #777
50-15 44th Street, Room 109
Woodside, New York 11377
718-361-3560, ext. 1092
Email: cec24@schools.nyc.gov

Resolution #171

Resolution to Oppose the New NYS Education Department Policy on Fire and Evacuation Drill Notifications

Sponsor: Matthew Crescio

Co-Sponsor: Connie Altamirano

Whereas, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has recently implemented a policy requiring parents to be notified in advance of the specific dates of fire and evacuation drills in schools, and;

Whereas, this new policy, while intended to support transparency and preparedness, has caused unintended social and emotional challenges for students within the New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE), as observed by numerous school leaders, principals, and parents, and;

Whereas, the practice of informing parents and the broader community of the precise date of these drills raises significant security concerns, especially in the context of potential school shootings or other dangerous incidents, and;

Whereas, in the event of a school shooting or other emergency, the public advance notice of drill dates could aid a potential attacker in planning an attack, allowing them to target students and staff during vulnerable moments, such as outdoor evacuations, where they may be exposed and unprotected, and;

Whereas, the mental and emotional well-being of students, particularly younger children, has been negatively impacted by the pre-drill notifications, as parents often pre-emptively prepare their children, causing heightened anxiety and confusion during actual emergencies where no prior warning is provided, and;

Whereas, unplanned emergency situations have led to increased panic and trauma among students due to the expectation of pre-notification, creating social and emotional distress that disrupts their sense of safety, security, and focus within the school environment;

Therefore, be it resolved, that Community Education Council District 24 (CEC24) formally opposes the current NYSED policy that mandates notifying parents and the community of the specific dates of fire and evacuation drills, and;



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Be it further resolved, that CEC24 urges NYSED and the NYC DOE to immediately suspend this policy and instead implement a revised protocol that balances the need for preparedness with the need to maintain student and staff safety and security during drills and actual emergencies, and;

Be it further resolved, that CEC24 recommends that schools revert to the previous practice of unannounced drills, which provide a more realistic simulation of emergency situations and better prepare students and staff for potential crises without causing undue emotional distress, and;

Be it further resolved, that CEC24 calls on NYSED and NYC DOE to involve school leaders, safety experts, and mental health professionals in developing policies that prioritize both physical safety and the social-emotional well-being of students in all aspects of school emergency preparedness.

Be it further resolved, that CEC24 will advocate for a formal review of this policy and its impact on student safety, mental health, and emergency preparedness in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including parents, school staff, and safety officers, to ensure that all students are protected from harm and unnecessary trauma.

Adopted by CEC24 on _____