



Confronting Racism and Bias, Protecting Our Communities

The Coalition for Educational Justice (CEJ) calls on the NYC Department of Education (DOE) to support NYC schools to be an oasis from racism, sexism, xenophobia and homophobia, and a beacon for truth, equity and justice for culturally and linguistically diverse students and families.

We ask the DOE to immediately:

- 1. Expand the training of teachers, Parent Coordinators, principals, staff members, and parents as expert anti-bias practitioners, and leaders who will develop and expand curricula that fully represents the rich diversity of NYC students.**

This addresses both the here-and-now needs of NYC students, and the long-term pedagogical needs of NYC schools.

CEJ calls for the rapid expansion of the Critically Conscious Educator Series currently in place for a small number of staff in the Expanded Success Initiative schools:

- DOE will provide training for **600** DOE personnel, starting immediately
- 15 tracks of 40 participants each, including tracks for different roles within the school community, including teachers, Parent Coordinators, principals, parents and more.
- Series consists of:
 - One 6-hour session on fundamentals of systemic racism and bias
 - Seven 3-hour monthly sessions to learn best practices, put into practice in schools, return and share reflections and lessons
- Focused in neighborhoods that have seen a surge of racist and anti-immigrant incidents

- 2. Direct and support schools to partner with organizations to provide parent workshops about immigrant rights and legal concerns under the next administration.**

Nearly half a million NYC public school students come from immigrant families. In recent weeks, community organizations and elected officials all over the city have been holding public discussions about how to protect our communities from Immigration and Customs Enforcement, concerns of a Muslim registry, potential changes to healthcare, and other policy issues under the new administration. Schools are familiar locations for many families, and have the potential to ensure that this critical information gets out to as many New Yorkers as possible.

CEJ calls for the DOE to support schools to hold know-your-rights workshops for families, in collaboration with local community organizations:

- DOE and Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) will develop training and informational materials to be distributed to all schools prior to January 20th, 2017
- DOE and MOIA will connect schools with community-based organizations with expertise in immigrant and civil rights to assist with delivering workshops
- All schools encouraged to provide trainings in the first few months of the year

For more information, please contact Natasha Capers at ncapers@nyccej.org