

Four Freedoms Democratic Club  
A Resolution Urging Advocacy for Increasing Funding to NYC Public Schools

Whereas public education consisting of a “sound basic education” has been recognized in New York state as a constitutional right for all New York students (including students in New York City);

Whereas in the landmark Campaign for Fiscal Equity (“CFE”) case, New York state’s highest court concluded that the state’s education funding was insufficient and unconstitutional because it failed to provide all students in New York City public schools with a sound basic education;

Whereas to ensure students are provided a sound basic education, New York state was ordered to pay public schools \$5.5 billion in Foundation Aid, phased in over four years from 2007 to 2011;

Whereas in 2018-2019, New York City public schools are still owed approximately \$1.4 billion dollars in Foundation Aid due to New York State’s failure to make required Foundation Aid payments;

Whereas as of 2017, schools in Legislative Assembly district 76 are owed approximately \$13 million dollars in Foundation Aid due to New York State’s failure to make required Foundation Aid payments;

Whereas the Foundation Aid funding owed to New York City public schools is long overdue and due to the significant cuts in public education funding to New York City under Governor Cuomo since 2011, the Foundation Aid owed to NYC schools should be paid in full in the 2020 budget with interest, along with sufficient additional increases in funding to provide a sound and basic, and quality education.

Be it resolved that the Four Freedoms Democratic Club take action to obtain the Foundation Aid funding owed to New York City public schools and additional increased funding for public education by actions including but not limited to:

- Executing a legislative and policy advocacy strategy for increased funding of public education (including but not limited to fully funding the Foundation Aid with interest);
- Partnering with other organizations including but not limited to: local political clubs, community-based organizations, school based groups, and advocacy groups to advocate for increased funding of public education including fully funding Foundation Aid.

10.16.19