



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Commissioner of Education
President of the University of the State of New York
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December 18, 2023

Chancellor David C. Banks
NYC Chancellor's Office
New York City Department of Education
52 Chamber Street-Room 320
New York, NY 10007-1222

Dear Chancellor Banks:

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the New York City Public Schools' 2023 Class Size Reduction Plan Implementation Report, thereby releasing the remaining two-thirds of the 2023-24 Contracts for Excellence Foundation Aid Set-Aside (approximately \$384 million).

Approval of the 2023 report and the release of funds is possible because at least 20% of classes in the 2023-24 school year are currently in compliance with the mandate. However, it is imperative for the city and its stakeholder groups to complete a more comprehensive assessment and analysis of what budget and physical space needs must be prioritized and to identify the detailed, actionable items in the class size reduction plan that will be implemented over the next several years.

The State Education Department is committed to continuing its support of the efforts of New York City Public Schools (NYCPS), the UFT, CSA, and Class Size Reduction advisory group(s) in the development of an iterative plan to achieve compliance with statutory class size mandates. A multifaceted approach will be necessary to achieve compliance with the law and the desired outcomes for the students of New York City. NYSED staff charged with overseeing the Contracts for Excellence program will maintain an open line of communication with NYCPS staff and will continue providing technical assistance and guidance as NYCPS navigates full-scale implementation.

NYSED looks forward to working closely with NYCPS in the coming years to ensure a responsible and equitable approach to class size reduction, beginning with addressing overcrowded classrooms in schools with the greatest needs.

I want to thank you for your commitment to supporting equitable public education that advances opportunities for success and achievement for all students.

Sincerely,



Betty A. Rosa
Commissioner

cc: Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr., Chancellor,
New York State Board of Regents