Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	Res 1302-2008	**Version:**	*	**Name:**	Mayor to submit an Executive Budget for fiscal year 2009 that restores proposed cuts to the Department of Education budget.
Type:	Resolution			**Status:**	Filed
				In control:	Committee on Finance
On agenda:	3/12/2008				
Enactment date:				**Enactment #:**	

Title: Resolution calling upon the Mayor to submit an Executive Budget for fiscal year 2009 that restores proposed cuts to the Department of Education budget, including the $324 million announced in January and any additional 3% (estimated to exceed $200 million) announced in March, and to immediately reverse the $180 million in recently enacted mid-year school budget cuts.

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
3/12/2008	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
3/12/2008	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
12/31/2009	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Res. No. 1302

Resolution calling upon the Mayor to submit an Executive Budget for fiscal year 2009 that restores proposed cuts to the Department of Education budget, including the $324 million announced in January and any additional 3% (estimated to exceed $200 million) announced in March, and to immediately reverse the $180 million in recently enacted mid-year school budget cuts.

By Council Members de Blasio, Jackson, Avella, Brewer, Comrie, Dickens, Eugene, Fidler, Gentile, Gerson, Gonzalez, James, Koppell, Liu, Mark-Viverito, Palma, Recchia Jr., Sanders Jr., Seabrook, Vann, Weprin, Yassky, Lappin, Rivera, White Jr., Katz, Gennaro, Mendez, Gioia, Foster, Arroyo, Stewart, Mealy, Reyna, Garodnick, Vacca, Barron, Nelson, Sears, Vallone Jr., Ignizio, Oddo and The Public Advocate (Ms. Gotbaum)

Whereas, A fully-funded and empowered public education system is critical to the future of New York City; and

Whereas, While New York City had committed to increase its investment in our public schools by $2.2 billion over a four year period, the mayor has instead reduced the Department of Education (DOE) budget with $180 million in mid-year cuts and another proposed $324 million in budget reductions for the next fiscal year, totaling more than one half billion dollars in cuts; and

powered by Legistar™

Whereas, At the Council's preliminary budget hearings in early March, the Budget Director also announced the Administration's intent to look for additional agency savings and reductions of an additional 3% for fiscal year 2009, which, if applied to DOE would add approximately $215 million more in cuts to DOE, bringing the total amount of proposed budget reductions to more than $700 million; and

Whereas, The $180 million in cuts during this current school year, $100 million of which were taken directly out of school budgets, have inflicted an immediate and severe impact on schools throughout New York City, as principals had been depending on this funding for some important discretionary school programs and supplies; and

Whereas, Due to this sudden loss of funding, our public schools are already being forced to cut back on after school programming, trim tutoring hours, cut costs on books, and decrease professional development opportunities; and

Whereas, Before shifting the largest share of any proposed cuts to schools, the DOE should examine its central spending priorities, including the exorbitant costs related to consultants, excessive testing, and no-bid contracts; and

Whereas, In addition to these City budget cuts, our public schools are also threatened with two funding reductions from the State, which is proposing to (1) decrease the $528 million in additional classroom aid that was promised to New York City by $193 million, and (2) delay State aid for school construction, which will hinder New York City's ability to implement desperately needed school construction and repairs; and

Whereas, After a 14-year battle for the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, City and State leaders finally made financial commitments to adequately fund public education in New York, but those promises are rapidly disappearing before the eyes of residents and students; and

Whereas, Though New York City faces difficult financial times on the horizon, and all agencies are experiencing reductions, we must still establish spending priorities and remain committed to a quality education for our children regardless of what the economy brings; and

powered by Legistar™

Whereas, Sufficient resources must be invested into our schools if we are to fulfill our civic duty to prepare the next generation of New Yorkers for college and the workforce; now, therefore, be it

Resolution calling upon the Mayor to submit an Executive Budget for fiscal year 2009 that restores proposed cuts to the Department of Education budget, including the $324 million announced in January and any additional 3% (estimated to exceed $200 million) announced in March, and to immediately reverse the $180 million in recently enacted mid-year school budget cuts.

LS#4833
FR/JA
3/10/08
1:00pm