



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 136

Resolution calling upon the New York City Department of Education to offer lactose-free milk as a milk alternative to students upon request by a parent or guardian.

By Council Members Salamanca, Hanif, Sanchez, Williams, Yeger, Ung, Ayala, Abreu, De La Rosa and Nurse

Whereas, According to the United States (U.S.) National Library of Medicine, lactose intolerance is the inability to digest lactose, a sugar in dairy products including milk; and

Whereas, The U.S. National Library of Medicine also reports that lactose products may cause individuals who are lactose intolerant to experience abdominal pain, nausea, bloating, and diarrhea within 30 minutes to 2 hours after consumption; and

Whereas, While there is limited New York City-specific data on the number of lactose intolerant individuals, about 65 percent of the human population has a decreased ability to digest lactose following infancy, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine; and

Whereas, The Nemours Foundation reports that individuals of African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American backgrounds are more likely to develop lactose intolerance at a young age; and

Whereas, During school year 2020-21, Asian, Black and Hispanic students represented about 16 percent, 25 percent and 41 percent respectively, of the New York City Department of Education's (DOE) student population; and

Whereas, Despite the prevalence of lactose intolerance and its impact on lactose intolerant individuals, the DOE does not currently require schools to provide lactose-free milk to students who are lactose intolerant, potentially resulting in digestive discomfort and other symptoms for affected students; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York City Department of Education to offer lactose-free milk as a milk alternative to students upon request by a parent or guardian.

Session 12

JA

LS #1963

4/20/22; 6:25 p.m.

Session 11

KJ

LS# 9110

Res. #849-2019