



Draft

Special Meeting Minutes – Contracts for Excellence (C4E)

Date: June 30, 2026

Time: 6:10 PM – 6:42 PM

Location: Hybrid Meeting (Superintendent joined remotely)

Presenter: [Dr. Khalek Kirkland](#), Superintendent

Budget Representative: [Louis Espinoza](#)

Call to Order

The special meeting of Community Education Council 23 was called to order at 6:10 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to present the FY2027 Contracts for Excellence (C4E) funding plan and the proposed FY2027 Class Size Reduction Plan.

Contracts for Excellence (C4E) Presentation

Overview

[Dr. Khalek Kirkland](#) provided background on the Contracts for Excellence (C4E) program, established under New York State Foundation Aid legislation in 2007–2008. The program requires specific portions of state aid to be used for initiatives designed to improve outcomes for students with the greatest educational needs, including English Language Learners, students living in poverty, and students with disabilities.

Eligible C4E Initiatives

Funding may be used for:

- Additional instructional time
- Programs supporting multilingual learners
- Full-day Pre-K and Kindergarten
- Class size reduction initiatives
- Teacher and principal quality initiatives

- Middle and high school restructuring programs
- Other state-approved experimental programs

FY2027 Funding Allocation

The Superintendent reported:

- Total C4E funding for FY2027: approximately **\$1.358 billion**
- Increase over prior year: **\$269 million**
- Of the increase, **\$45 million** reflects existing class size reduction funding now categorized as C4E.
- **\$224 million** in new C4E funding will support class size reduction efforts.

Citywide Allocation Breakdown

Discretionary Funding

- \$487 million (35.84%)

Targeted Funding

- \$871 million (64.16%), including:
 - \$464 million for class size reduction
 - \$183 million for Fair Student Funding teacher salaries
 - \$91 million restricted to teacher salaries
 - \$87 million for Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) programs
 - \$30 million for academic summer programs
 - \$9 million for full-day Pre-K
 - \$7 million for Autism Spectrum Disorder classrooms

Public Comment

The public comment period for the C4E proposal remains open through **July 29, 2026**. Community members were encouraged to submit feedback through the designated C4E email address.

FY2027 Class Size Reduction Plan

Background

The Superintendent reviewed the requirements of New York State's Class Size Reduction Law (Chapter 556 of the Laws of 2022), which establishes class size caps and requires New York City Public Schools to submit a Class Size Reduction Plan as part of the C4E process.

Class Size Caps

The law establishes maximum class sizes of:

- Kindergarten–Grade 3: 20 students
- Grades 4–8: 23 students
- Grades 9–12: 25 students
- Physical Education and performing groups: 40 students

Compliance Timeline

Recently passed amendments establish citywide compliance targets of:

- 70% compliance in 2026–27
- 80% compliance in 2027–28
- 90% compliance in 2028–29
- 100% compliance in 2029–30

Current Compliance Status

For the 2025–26 school year:

- Citywide compliance rate: 64% (including exemptions)
- Compliance rate without exemptions: approximately 59.5%
- Required benchmark: 60%

District 23 was identified as one of the districts with comparatively high compliance rates.

FY2027 Class Size Reduction Strategies

The draft plan includes:

- Allocation of \$244 million for additional teacher hiring
- Enhanced teacher recruitment efforts
- Increased capital planning and space management
- An additional \$1.5 billion added to the city's capital plan for classroom space needs

- Collaboration between New York City Public Schools and the School Construction Authority to evaluate over 600 schools requiring additional capacity

The Superintendent outlined both capital and non-capital strategies, including:

- Better utilization of existing classroom space
- School programming and scheduling adjustments
- Enrollment-management strategies
- Co-location and building capacity reviews
- Construction and expansion projects where necessary

Public Comment

Community members were advised that comments regarding the Class Size Reduction Plan may be submitted through classsize@schools.nyc.gov. The comment period is expected to extend beyond July 29, 2026, for some districts.

Questions and Discussion

A council member requested:

1. More district-specific information regarding how District 23's approximately \$4.5 million in discretionary C4E funding is utilized.
2. Clarification regarding District 23's plans to remain compliant with class size requirements, given that only one school building was described as operating at full capacity.

Superintendent's Response

[Dr. Khalek Kirkland](#) stated that:

- Approximately seven to nine District 23 schools received funding for additional teaching positions.
- Principals are being encouraged to maximize classroom utilization by sharing available instructional spaces rather than assigning rooms solely to individual teachers.
- Schools are expanding Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) programs to increase flexibility and support compliance.

- District 23 is currently performing better on class size compliance than many districts citywide.

No additional questions were raised by virtual attendees, and no comments were submitted through the meeting chat.

Closing Remarks

[Dr. Khalek Kirkland](#) thanked attendees for their participation and encouraged everyone to stay safe during anticipated extreme summer heat conditions.

The meeting concluded at **6:42 PM**. Attendees were reminded that the next CEC23 meeting, (the Annual Meeting), is scheduled for **July 13, 2026**.