

Open Seat President
Dina Guirguis First Vice President
Robert Aguilar Second Vice President
Alice Licato Recording Secretary
Inga Smolyar Treasurer



Council Members

Alan Aja Vito LaBella
Mauricia Cadillo Simeon Stolzberg
Yi Fang Chen
Adele Doyle

Administrative Assistant: Natalia Mondesir

Community Education Council District 20 Resolution 7 to Demand Internet Service for All New York City Families

The Community Education Council of District 20 is a group of parents and community members who have been elected or appointed to serve the neighborhoods of Sunset Park, Bay Ridge, Ft. Hamilton, Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst, Ditmas Park, and beyond, representing thousands of public school students and their families. This resolution joins together councils across New York City to demand our elected officials address the significant need for expanded access to internet service for families enrolled in both blended and remote learning this year.

Whereas the New York City Department of Education (DOE) closed its school buildings as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 16th, 2020;

Whereas all public schools were required to transition to remote learning for the remainder of the school year 2019-2020;

Whereas the City of New York negotiated free internet access through the end of the school year 2019-2020 for families who needed an internet connection and the DOE provided free internet enabled iPads to families without devices;

Whereas some internet providers required families to subscribe long term to temporarily free internet, putting families at risk of receiving invoices after the free period unless families take the initiative to cancel;

Whereas even though the City of New York and the DOE took measures to close the digital divide, thousands of students struggled to participate in remote learning meaningfully because of digital technology related reasons, such as connecting via the cellular network rather than the broadband, delay in subscribing to free internet, and unstable internet connection;

Whereas regardless of adopted reopening plans for the school year 2020-2021, every student will be required to participate in remote learning;

Whereas the DOE's plan to ensure internet connectivity for the school year 2020-2021 is for families without internet access to request a free iPad, which took weeks or whose delivery had numerous issues during the school year 2019-2020 leading to lost instructional time for students;

Whereas regardless of the reopening plan, caregivers of public school students will continue to receive necessary communication from school and central DOE via digital means, requiring these caregivers to have access to reliable internet connection for essential and critical information related to their children's education;

Whereas in today's digital world, internet connectivity is an essential service, much like electricity and water, and should be available to all as a public utility;

Whereas in January 2020 the City of New York released the [NYC Internet Master Plan](#), which promises to deliver universal high speed broadband to all New Yorkers;

Therefore be it resolved the Community Education Council District 20 urges the City of New York to expedite the implementation of the NYC Internet Master Plan;

Therefore be it further resolved the CECD 20 urges the City of New York to prioritize installation of high speed broadband infrastructure in public housing; in neighborhoods whose median wealth is below the citywide median wealth; and in low-income communities spatially situated amid higher-income communities; and

Therefore be it further resolved the CECD 20 urges the DOE to renegotiate free internet subscriptions with internet & cellular service providers for the entirety of the school year 2020-2021, including the summer of 2021, regardless of the possibility of full school reopening in spring 2021.