

Writing Testimony
January 29, 2026

Greetings Chairpersons and Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the proposed New York State Education Budget.

My name is Estela Ana Nguema, and I have the honor of serving as a Council Education Member in District 30 and D75 Representative. I'm here to advocate for equitable funding to support our students.

Transportation:

We need buses equipped for students, specially students in need who are the most vulnerable in our community .- think wheelchair ramps, sensory-friendly features, comfy seats, AC/heat, and space for belongings.

Paraprofessionals:

Our paraprofessionals deserve a significant pay increase, recognizing their crucial role in supporting students with disabilities. Let's prioritize their compensation and provide more resources for our students.

Accessibility and infrastructure:

Adaptive playground and equipment and sensory-friendly areas are essential for inclusive play. Schools need retrofits- elevators, ramps to make sure all students are welcoming.

Art and Extracurriculars:

Let's boost initiatives like art competitions and clubs, giving students a platform to shine. I'd love to see an annual art contest where students can showcase their talents!

Sincerely,
Estela Nguema