

## **Urban Youth Collaborative Slams City Council & Mayor for Failing to Deliver Police-Free Schools in FY '22 Executive Budget**

***Students: "After the trauma of this year, we need police-free schools more than ever."***

***NYC Education Budget includes funding for restorative justice and an increase in funding for social workers but fails to significantly cut the School Safety Division.***

NEW YORK – Today, the New York City Council voted to pass the 2022 Fiscal Budget, which maintained \$445 million to school policing and failed to allocate \$118.5 million for restorative justice in schools or \$177 million for social and emotional support, per youth, parent, and teacher demands. In response, the [Urban Youth Collaborative](#) released the following statement:

"After the collective trauma of this year, New York City students need fully-funded care – not policing – more than ever. Unfortunately, this budget proves again that Mayor Bill de Blasio and the City Council have prioritized policing students over comprehensively meeting their social, emotional, and mental health needs.

"Our youth-led movement made our needs crystal clear to elected officials: complete divestment from school policing, \$118.5 million for restorative justice, and \$177 million for social workers, guidance counselors, and a citywide mental health continuum. These decisions would have been a good first step towards the 100% equitable, nurturing schools we all deserve – but that Black, brown, and low-income students in New York City rarely have access to.

"The final budget allocates \$12 million for restorative justice, and increases funding for social workers, guidance counselors, and social, emotional, and mental health support. While we commend the Council members who listened to students and fought for these investments, unfortunately, this doesn't go far enough to meet our needs following an unprecedented pandemic. By failing to significantly cut the School Safety Division, the Council ensures we are returning to a school system that prioritizes controlling and criminalizing us over providing us with care.

"Despite this deeply harmful budget, we remain steadfast that our movement will prevail. More and more New Yorkers understand that police don't keep our schools or communities safe. For a safe and just future we have to fully divest from school policing and invest in our care. We are deeply disappointed in the Mayor and City Council today, but tomorrow the fight continues."

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***UYC is a coalition of students from across New York City fighting for transformative education reform that puts students first, with a focus on replacing harmful policing in schools with restorative justice and trauma-informed care. The UYC coalition is made up of members from the [Future of Tomorrow](#) of Cypress Hills Local Development and Corporation, [Make the Road New York](#), and [Sistas and Brothas United of the Northwest Bronx](#).***