

Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Honorable Joel I. Klein
Chancellor
New York City Public Schools
52 Chambers Street, Room 314
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Klein:

As a parent of a Bronx High School of Science student, I must register my great dismay over the recently-announced school budget cuts. They were promulgated with practically no advance notice and no prior consultation with our school or any other. But more important, they will have a very severe effect on our programs going forward.

There is no "fat" at Bronx Science which can easily be eliminated. Under Fair Student Funding this fiscal year, Bronx Science is given the 6th lowest operating budget per capita out of 1,391 public schools in the city. Cutting \$238,000 from our budget for the remaining half of this year, an effective 3.5% cut, will require eliminating essential staff and key educational opportunities for our students. Even before this cut, Bronx Science ranks in the 93rd percentile for the highest pupil to teacher ratio among city public high schools. Since 2006, when Bronx Science was utilizing over 102% of its capacity (compared to 97% for similar schools), the DOE has forced the school to dramatically increase its enrollment each year. For these reasons this 3.5% across-the-board cut hurts Bronx Science far more than other schools in the city.

Surely, in the billions of dollars that the DOE budget consumes, savings and efficiencies sufficient to meet the Mayor's targets can be found without taking it out of the schools and the classrooms at this point. This was not what we expected when the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit was finally won and a new era of adequate funding of our public school system was promised. If times are getting tougher, we can't imagine that some intermediate steps are not available to address the situation first, without now resorting to what should only be the last, and most drastic response -- cutting direct funding to our schools.

Please reconsider and find some creative, and fairer, solution to this problem

Thank you,