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PRESS STATEMENT:

NYC's Largest Parent-Led Coalition Wins Anti-Bias Trainings and Culturally Responsive Education for All NYC Schools

Today the Mayor announced that the City is putting \$23 million into the Executive budget for culturally responsive education and anti-bias trainings for tens of thousands of school staff. This is in direct response to the tireless work of parents from the NYC Coalition for Educational Justice (CEJ). Parents have been fighting, organizing and advocating for this for over a year, even delivering 20,000 petition signatures to City Hall a few weeks ago.

"Parents from the Coalition for Educational Justice are proud today to see the Mayor make this strong investment in culturally responsive education and anti-bias training for school staff. Thousands of parents have worked hard over the past year to bring racial justice in the classroom to the center of the city's education agenda. We look forward to working with Chancellor Carranza and NYC educators to fulfill the promise of this initiative and begin the important work of diversifying curriculum and course offerings as well," said Natasha Capers, Coordinator for the NYC Coalition for Educational Justice

"This is a big win for our community— these funds for anti-bias training will be a great step forward to ensure that racism has no place in our City's schools. We are very happy that the voices of the parents have been heard, and we thank Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza for making sure these funds are in the budget," said Mireya Solis, Parent Leader with Make the Road New York.

"The power of parent voice and organizing once again cannot be denied," said Zakiyah Ansari, Advocacy Director, Alliance for Quality Education. "For over a year the Coalition for Educational Justice and the Alliance for Quality Education have been demanding anti-bias training for educators, now all students will benefit. Mayor de Blasio's \$23M multi-year commitment to invest in implicit bias training and culturally responsive education finally sends the message to students that they matter. It also sends a message to educators that the city is here to support their growth. Now we need Governor Cuomo to make a multi-year investment in funding CFE, so we can ensure all children in New York, not just those in the city, have fully funded schools and culturally responsive education."

Aracelis Lucero, Executive Director of Masa, said, "We would like to congratulate the Mayor for choosing to stand on the right side of history, recognizing the importance of ensuring that all students feel valued, included, and respected within their classrooms. Especially in the current racist and anti-immigrant political climate, this decision sends a strong message that New York

City will not stand idly by when schools engage in ignorant and uninformed practices, and will support teachers in creating welcoming classrooms for all students. Most importantly, we would like to acknowledge the hard work of the CEJ parents that have valiantly led the charge to create more inclusive schools. This is a good initial step, and part of a longer journey in which we hope to one day see all students and families feel genuinely embraced in our school communities. ¡Sí, se pudo!”

“The Parent Action Committee stands together with the NYC Coalition for Educational Justice in celebrating the inclusion of culturally responsive education and anti-bias trainings. NYC is the most diverse school system in the country and that diversity should be celebrated and reflected in professional development, curriculum, school climate, and all other aspects of our public schools” said Josephine Ofili, parent leader with the New Settlement Parent Action Committee.