



June 11, 2020

Dear Families,

A budget is a list of priorities expressed in dollars. How you spend says what you value.

Usually, by the end of May, schools can start to plan with their budget for the next school year. It is mid-June, and we still have not seen next year's budget. The economy is weak, so the city has to cut nine *billion* dollars. The question is what to cut. The question is how our city will express our priorities.

I was among [hundreds of public school employees who signed this letter](#). Of course I am fighting for a bigger budget for CPE1 students. At first the mayor proposed to increase the police department budget while slashing education and mental health. I think communities will be safer if we invest more in counselors than in updating NYPD riot gear.

The mayor now has signaled that the city may reduce the police budget. To get the most for school children, New Yorkers have to keep being vocal. The [NYC Coalition for Educational Justice](#) has declared today a day of action. It is not too late [to sign up to be involved](#), and it is definitely not too late to express your beliefs on social media.

I have been waiting to write to you about our budget until I could share just how big the cuts will be. I'm not in such a hurry to write that budget letter. I can wait a little longer, and make my voice a little louder, if communities get more of what they deserve.

## District Graduation Ceremony

Yesterday, our school district finalized plans to hold a district-wide graduation for fifth, eighth, and twelfth graders. This district graduation does **not** replace CPE1's graduation on Saturday, June 20.

The district graduation will be a computer-only event. It will include a quick video message from each East Harlem principal, and a list of names of school's graduates. Here's how you can attend:

Date: Monday, June 15  
Time: 4:00 p.m.  
Click: [This Link](#)

Again, we are having our own CPE1 graduation on June 20. Each of our fifth graders will be honored more there.

Gabriel