



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

December 13, 2017

Carmen Farina  
Chancellor  
NYC Department of Education  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Farina,

Over the last few months Mott Hall II and P.S. 165 in Community School District 3 (CSD3) have been engaged in a school truncation discussion, and next month the Panel on Education Policy (PEP) will be voting on the Department of Education's final plan, which will truncate P.S. 165 from a K-8 school to a K-5 school. I am supportive of this plan and believe that every child in Manhattan deserves access to good neighborhood public schools. While Mott Hall II is currently 2 percentage points away from the Title I funding threshold, this will change when the truncation occurs and Mott Hall II absorbs P.S. 165 middle school students. In order for this truncation to be successful, the Department of Education (DOE) must meet Mott Hall II's anticipated funding needs in the 2018-2019 school year, while they are waiting for federal Title I funds. **I call on the DOE to provide Mott Hall II with advance funding in order to properly prepare for the successful integration of P.S. 165 students at Mott Hall II in the 2018-2019 academic year.**

I would be remiss if I didn't first acknowledge the incredible school community former Principal Anna de los Santos and current Principal Marlon Lowe have built at Mott Hall II. Mott Hall II not only serves a diverse student population that is truly representative of CSD3, but Principal Lowe's team works tirelessly to create an academic and socio-emotional environment where students across the academic spectrum thrive. Mott Hall II is a prime example of what is possible when parents, teachers and school leaders are committed to the success of every child, and should be seen as a model for schools throughout the city.

I commend Principal Lowe for his commitment to ensuring a successful transition for both P.S. 165 and Mott Hall II families next year, but we must set him up for success by providing the needed resources. Currently, 58% of Mott Hall II's students qualify for free/reduced price lunch (FRL), and the school is 2 percentage points away from being designated a Title I school. By comparison 74% of the students at P.S. 165 qualify for FRL. With the truncation at P.S. 165, Mott Hall II will become a Title I school in 2018-2019. However, as Title I funding is allocated based on current enrollment numbers rather than projected numbers, the school would lose out on hundreds of thousands of dollars that it will undoubtedly need to serve its new students. Principal Lowe and Mott Hall II parents have repeatedly said that they will welcome P.S. 165 middle school students with open arms, and I believe that this truncation



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will ultimately lead to positive outcomes for all students, but Principal Lowe must be supported as he works to create and implement a seamless transition plan for all families involved.

**To reiterate, unless addressed immediately, Mott Hall II is at risk of being alarmingly underfunded by hundreds of thousands of dollars as it prepares for the next academic year, negatively impacting Principal Lowe and his school's ability to serve all students. I urge the DOE to provide Mott Hall II with stopgap funding equal to the amount of the Title I funds the school will qualify for on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Given the time sensitive nature of this matter, I look forward to your immediate response.**

Thank you in advance for your attention to these matters. If you have any questions, please contact my Senior Policy Analyst Ayisha Irfan at [airfan@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:airfan@manhattanbp.nyc.gov) or 212-669-8146.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer".

Gale A. Brewer

cc: Elizabeth Rose, Deputy Chancellor, Division of Operations, NYC Department of Education  
Ilene Altschul, School District 3 Community Superintendent, NYC Department of Education,  
Community Education Council 3 members