



AIA
New York

AIA New York Position Statement: Education

Every state upholds laws requiring the education of its residents. While the law in each state varies, these statutes ensure that young people receive between 11 to 14 years of education funded through local, state, and federal governments. For more than a century, public funding has supported the education of the vast majority of our country's citizens. Nationwide, more than 85 percent of the school-age population attend public schools.

The New York City Department of Education (DOE) is the largest school district in the nation, serving 1.1 million students in over 1,800 schools.¹ Title I of the national Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides financial assistance to local schools in New York and nationwide with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet their state's academic standards.

Education, including higher education, is at the heart of our city's future economic viability, and new facilities can be the magnets attracting students, faculty, and research. As leading engines of economic growth, the city's academic institutions play an important role in preserving the quality of life. Sustainable and healthy K-12 school facilities are our children's central civic space and the cornerstone of our neighborhoods. If the incoming administration supports disinvestment in public education at the national level, the burden will be pushed to states and local municipalities. Public schools in New York City stand to lose at least \$500 million in Title I funding. This could directly affect 700,000 students in more than 1,200 city schools across the city. That funding stream represents nearly 40 percent of the federal money directed to New York City's DOE, and almost 3 percent of its \$23 billion operating budget.²

The reduction of funding could impact all of New York City's school system, raising class sizes in non-Title I schools, threatening academic enrichment initiatives, STEM programs, professional development for teachers and principals, universal pre-kindergarten, special education, support for students with disabilities, support for English language learners, guidance, art and music, and other services our children depend on. Many schools receiving Title I funding are housed in aging buildings with already inadequate funds to address basic safety and maintenance. Often these schools do not provide the types of spaces that play a critical role in providing the kind of education necessary for the success of the next generation. Greater levels of disinvestment will deepen inequality across the city, limiting opportunity for those who need it most.

Principles

- The public school system is the hallmark of our democracy and public education is an inalienable right of our citizens. Public schools should provide all students with the quality learning environments and education they deserve.
- Public schools should be considered within a holistic vision of community building, alongside housing, health, transportation and park access. They should also be considered within the comprehensive context of local and regional planning, including infrastructure expansion, transportation needs, and long-term sustainability.

The American Institute of Architects

AIA New York
536 LaGuardia Place
New York, NY 10012

T (212) 683 0023

F (212) 696 5022

www.aiany.org



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- Architectural concepts should be included in STEM education throughout our school systems. These concepts promote learning across disciplines and teach students how design and architecture impact their lives.
- Architecture education should be affordable for all. Millions of young people aspire to help their communities through an education in architecture but lack of opportunity and the crushing cost of education hold them back. As a result, the design and construction industry faces a severe shortage of talent. We support the National Design Services Act, which would provide student debt relief to graduating architecture students who contribute volunteer design work in underserved communities.
- AIANY encourages the necessary expansion of the city's major academic institutions. Education, including higher education, is at the heart of our city's future economic viability and quality of life. New facilities can be the magnets attracting students, faculty, and research.

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¹ 'About Us' (2017), New York City Department of Education <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/default.htm>

² 'New York City 2016-17 Title I Funding' (2016) United Federal Teachers <http://files.uft.org/nyc-title-i-funding-by-schools.pdf>