

A Flaw in Pre-K for All: The Education Pay Gap

THE ISSUE: The disparity in pay between community-based pre-K teachers and DOE educators.



Mayor de Blasio

and emotional needs, like early-childhood education, continues to be consistently under-funded, despite the fact that educators, parents and even elected officials agree that the early-childhood years are critical.

We all recognize that spending reflects our priorities, and I can't think of anything more important than giving every child a chance to develop into a person their parents can be proud of.

That doesn't happen without the guidance and support of licensed, certified professionals. All our children deserve great educators, and those educators deserve a fair and equitable salary commensurate with their DOE colleagues.

Randi Herman
Former First VP, CSSA
Brooklyn

• I am writing to indicate my strong support for The Post's recent editorial arguing for pay parity for underpaid pre-K teachers.

De Blasio's universal pre-K program remains a sham until every equally qualified teacher is paid fairly.

It is ironic that the current framework punishes minorities, the precise group that the new pro-

gram is supposed to benefit. De Blasio should receive no credit whatsoever for this deeply flawed program.

Louis J. Pashman
Savannah, Ga.

• Thank you for the editorial on pre-K pay parity. It shows a real understanding of the issue.

Community-based organizations are doing the same work as Department of Education teachers with the same qualifications. They should receive the same pay.

If de Blasio closes the funding gap by providing additional money, CBOs will have the funds to pay their hardworking staff as much as the DOE pays.

Cheryl Dewitt
Executive Director
NAACP Early Childhood
Education Center
The Bronx

• Many of the community-based, early-childhood programs serve a majority of low-income and minority children and families.

What is the city truly saying when it puts less money into these community-based organizations, which are providing direct programming to these undeserved communities? Ultimately, it sends a very clear message of the worth of these children's education.

The money for salary parity is not just about giving the current dedicated staff their fair pay; it will allow community-based early-childhood organizations to have a fighting chance to work with quality teachers for the neediest children they serve.

Mary Cheng
Director,
Childhood Development
Services, CAPC
Manhattan

• As a Bronx community-based organization pre-K director who earns less than a first-year Department of Education teacher, I was thrilled to see The Post's piece on the immoral and illegal pre-K salary disparity ("Peculiar Pre-K Priorities," Editorial, March 31).

It's frustrating to see Mayor de Blasio running around the country touting pre-K and 3-K for all as his accomplishment. How dare he?

The mostly women of color in CBO pre-Ks, as the editorial pointed out, have been doing this important work for decades.

Most city pre-K children are educated by qualified and highly experienced CBO teachers, yet they earn poverty wages, while DOE staff enjoy much higher salaries, free insurance, shorter work days and summers off. These inequities lead to high staff turnover, only hurting the most vulnerable children in our city.

Chloe Pashman
Manhattan

• I run a universal pre-K classroom in Staten Island. I have a Masters in education and am being certified in New York, and my co-teacher has a Bachelors degree in psychology.

Our annual salaries are way less than unionized teachers and paraprofessionals. We do the same exact work, if not more, with no break time, just in a different building. We are not offered health coverage or a pension.

Why is this? Why are salaries not the same across the board? We find it extremely unfair and would like to see changes made.

Laura Ali
Staten Island

• When the city budget is proposed, the line item for educational, social