

Resolution Title: Resolution in Support of General Education Diploma (GED) Programs
Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, the 2002 US Census indicates that 2,228,614 New York State adults were without high school diplomas including 69,554 New York City students, according to the New York City Department of Education report on 11/21/2001, Pushing Out At-Risk Students: An Analysis of High School Discharge Figures; and

WHEREAS, the CUNY Office of Institutional Research and Assessment in its Fall 2003 Profile of Undergraduates at Senior and Community Colleges reported that 10.8% of its 27,375 first-time freshmen entered with GEDs: 2,230 (19.4%) at community colleges and 778 (4.9%) at senior colleges, including the highest percent (29.9%) enrolling at Medgar Evers College; and

WHEREAS, for 57 years, the GED Tests have measured the major academic skills and knowledge of a four-year program of education in core content areas and are sponsored by the American Council on Education (ACE), a comprehensive association for the nation's colleges and universities dedicated to the analysis of higher education issues and advocacy on behalf of quality higher education and adult education programs; and

WHEREAS, ACE has stated that more than 95 percent of US employers consider GED graduates the same as traditional high school graduates in regard to hiring, salary, and opportunity for advancement; and

WHEREAS, the GED is an alternative means, and for some high school students and immigrant, the only means of achieving a high school diploma and notable graduates of GED programs include entertainer Bill Cosby, actor Christian Slater, Governor Ruth Ann Miller of Delaware, and Colorado Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell; and

WHEREAS, the US military and more than 90 percent of colleges and universities in the nation, including CUNY, have policies to accept nontraditional graduates who have GED Diplomas; and

WHEREAS, in September 2004, the New York City Education Department shut down dozens of GED sites used by 14,000 people, even though the Department reported in its 11/2/02 report, Pushing Out at-Risk Students, that adult literacy programs saw a 30% to 40% increase in 16 and 17 year-old students applying for GED adult literacy programs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT urge the New York State Education Department to continue to support GED programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT urge the New York City Department of Education to reopen closed GED centers and close no further centers until alternative centers are in place.