

PSC CUNY

NYC Preliminary Budget and Campus Cuts

March 2024

CUNY in Crisis: Hard-fought gains are continually eroded by cuts. Now is the time to fund CUNY not to put colleges into a death spiral to save money. #CareNotCuts #Reconnect&Retain

Yet CUNY administration is forcing austerity because general operating support for public higher education continues to be unstable.

- CUNY's administration tasked nine CUNY colleges, including two 2-year colleges funded primarily by the city, with making additional cuts to their FY24 budgets. These colleges must save \$56.9 million dollars in addition to what's already been eliminated by savings plans and PEGs.
- Campuses report: class cancellations, adjunct layoffs, reductions to course offerings and increased enrollment caps, non-replacement of vacant staff positions, and cuts to temporary staff and OTPS budgets. The campuses can bring back only 1 employee for every 3 that leave.

Enrollment is coming back! Cuts are premature and will not help retain students.

- Per CUNY's March 2024 Enrollment Subcommittee Report freshman enrollment is up 10.6% from Spring 2023 to Spring 2024 while transfer enrollment is up 9.2%
- Further, new policies allow for streamlined admission. CUNY Applications are up 368% for FY24 over FY23.

Restore Cuts and Lift Hiring Freezes: – Reject Further PEGs and restore previous cuts. Remove hiring freezes. **\$94 million**

- In FY24, cumulative PEGs from current and prior financial plans resulted in the loss of 363 civilian and pedagogical positions. Without operational support, vacancies for full-time faculty, advisors, mental health professionals and others can't be filled.
- According to the Council's Report on the Fiscal 24 Preliminary Plan the, "citywide vacancy reduction plan required agencies to eliminate half of their current vacant positions. CUNY's vacancy reduction plan includes the elimination of 156 positions in each year... [through] 2027."
- Colleges exhibit real stress. For example, at City Tech 67% of staff interviewed reported that their department had vacancies and 74% of staff reported that this increased their workload. At BMCC, staff report vacant positions including in the Math Department which does not have a single person in its front office to help students.

Reconnect and Advise to Move Toward ASAP for ALL – Expand CUNY

Reconnect and ASAP. We can Reconnect *and Retain* students. **\$35.5 million**

- Reconnect works! Since the program pilot in the 2022-23 academic year, more than 26,000 students have re-enrolled. While ASAP's graduation rate is far above the community college average.
- In an ASAP-for-all model, students begin with a reconnect navigator and receive the academic support provided by CUNY's most successful program - including a dedicated advisor.
- **ASAP's provision of free MetroCards** is part of its success, but students are not screened for eligibility for existing city programs. Require CUNY to screen for Fair Fares eligibility and expand transit access to all students.

The City funds our community colleges! Now is not the time to abdicate this responsibility!

FY23 Adopted Budget

Community College Funding Sources



Source: NY City Council Finance Division Briefing Paper <https://council.nyc.gov/budget/wp-content/uploads/sites/54/2023/03/CUNY-1.pdf>