



**Department of  
Education**

*Carmen Fariña, Chancellor*

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April 28, 2016

The Lower East Side Young Historians  
P.S. 126  
80 Catherine Street  
New York, NY 10038

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the New York City Department of Education (DOE), I am writing in support of the Lower East Side Young Historians (LESYH) program at P.S. 126 in Manhattan.

Since its inception, the LESYH program has taught eighth graders American History through the microcosm of the Lower East Side. By learning the history and immigrant roots of their own neighborhood, students are able to build vital connections to the past, while exploring their own identities and building self-confidence. Additionally, the program expands over multiple academic content areas, as students research topics of interest and express themselves through food, science, art, and music.

As a Spanish immigrant who had to develop her own ties to New York City, I am a staunch advocate of comprehensive American History education, and believe that social studies is one of the most important subjects taught in our schools. In that respect, I think that this Common Core Learning Standards-aligned curriculum demonstrates what a social studies curriculum can and should be. Moreover, the historical signage campaign promotes the impact that this program has had on its participating students, P.S. 126, and the local community.

The LESYH program is a shining example of DOE educators' commitment to providing our students with rigorous academic instruction that drives school improvement. We value the recognition of innovative programs like the LESYH and their potential transformative impact on our schools and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmen Fariña'.

Carmen Fariña  
Chancellor

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