

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3215**

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Herman Ridder Educational Campus HVAC System Upgrades in Fiscal Year 2027.

The entity to receive funding for this project is New York City Public Schools, located at 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007.

The funding would be used to fund HVAC system upgrades at the Herman Ridder Educational Campus in the Bronx. The campus is home to three public schools serving over 1,000 students: Explorations Academy, Bronx Envision Academy, and Bard High School Early College Bronx. The aging HVAC infrastructure across the campus no longer functions adequately, compromising air quality, temperature control, and the overall learning environment for students and staff. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because safe, functional school infrastructure is a prerequisite for effective learning. Inadequate ventilation and temperature control have a direct and well-documented impact on student concentration, attendance, and academic performance. This targeted capital investment modernizes critical building systems across a campus serving over 1,000 students in one of the most economically disadvantaged communities in the nation, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for learning year-round.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by and consistent with the goals of one or more of the following eligible uses of the Community Development Fund (CDF): 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2), 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4), and 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress

