



## THE EUGENE OLIVER JR. EDUCATION CENTER: *Building a Legacy of Learners*

**E**ast Side House believes in investing in our littlest learners. Since the early 1960s, we have offered Head Start and Early Head Start programs in the Mott Haven neighborhood of the Bronx. Each year, we educate 241 toddlers, charting them on a path for a successful future. Our centers provide a safe space for children and their families where they can learn together and access critical resources.

Our well-rounded curriculum allows children to explore their interests while gaining essential literacy and numeracy skills. Even throughout the pandemic, our children continued to achieve incredible results. Despite the disruptions in learning and the challenges our students face living in one of the poorest congressional districts in the country, our students met or exceeded standards in all developmental domains.

Due to East Side House's track record of success, we were elected to expand services to meet the growing demand for quality early childhood education in the neighborhood.

Through our new Eugene Oliver Jr. Education Center, we will provide an additional 43 students with a strong educational foundation.



**Honorable Eugene Oliver Jr.**  
East Side House Board Member

## *Designed With Dedication*

**P**rogramming at Eugene Oliver Jr. Education Center is designed to meet the growing and emerging needs of the South Bronx. Nearly 30% of students in our community have special needs, but very few programs have the resources and aptitude to support them to thrive.

Dedicated to the belief that all students deserve to thrive, East Side House advocated to incorporate an Inclusive Classroom into the program design. Through this classroom, East Side House will not only be able to welcome students with disabilities into the center, but educate and support them

alongside their peers so they can participate as full members of the center and society. Inclusion is the practice of educating and caring for children with disabilities in the same environment or setting as their typically developing peers.

The Eugene Oliver Jr. Education Center will be equipped to welcome and serve students with a wide range of needs, including those with physical therapy needs, occupational therapy needs, visual impairment, physical impairment (use of prosthetics), wheelchair use, down syndrome, and autism.

With this approach, East Side House distinguishes itself as an organization that strives to innovate at every turn so that we can address real community needs.

## HONORING A COMMUNITY ICON

**E**ast Side House is honored to name the new early childhood education center after long-time Board Member, the Honorable Eugene Oliver Jr. Hon. Oliver

is a former Bronx Supreme Court Judge who got his start as a child in East Side House's Mill Brook Community Center. He spent his early days learning, playing, and growing with the support of East Side House's friendly staff. When asked about his experience as a child, Hon. Oliver credits East Side House as giving him the leg up he needed to jump start a successful future.



## East Side House students met or exceeded standards in all developmental domains:

**87%** met or exceeded standards in Social Emotional skills

**87%** met or exceeded standards in Language skills

**88%** met or exceeded standards in Literacy

**83%** met or exceeded standards in Mathematics



“I grew up in Mill Brook Houses and, through East Side House, attained the means to a successful career in Law,” says Oliver. “I am truly humbled and appreciative of the honor of having the center named after me.”



Hon. Oliver went on to earn a degree from Fordham University School of Law and began his career in 1977 as an Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County. He then built a decades-long career as a judge in the Bronx County Supreme Court and New York City Criminal Court. Always committed to his community, he joined East Side House's Board of Managers in 1971 to help create pathways for other eager young people.

**“The new Early Childhood Education Center will give young children the opportunity to mature and grow in a safe, nurturing environment,” says Oliver.**

“It will be an essential pathway to future success. I hope my replacement in the [law] field will be one or more of the young children attending the Eugene Oliver Jr. Education Center.”

Eugene Oliver Jr. Education Center opened its doors to 43 excited new learners in early 2023.

East Side House welcomes you to visit our website or follow us on social media to follow the progress of this exciting new venture!

## East Side House believes in investing in our littlest learners

Dawn Heyward, East Side House's Deputy Director of Early Childhood Education reflects on the meaning this center brings to the community:

“A five-year journey, hijacked by a worldwide pandemic, is finally bearing its fruits. This innovative, modern learning lab will not only bring quality services to families but will represent to the community the value their children hold in our society.”

For more information about East Side House Settlement and their programs, please visit: [eastsidehouse.org](https://eastsidehouse.org)

For the latest news, follow us on Instagram: [@eastsidehouseinc](https://www.instagram.com/eastsidehouseinc)  
[@thewintershownyc](https://www.instagram.com/thewintershownyc)