

Regents State Aid Proposal: State Aid to Schools

In order to increase equity for all students, the Regents recommend a **\$2 billion total increase** in State Aid for the 2020-21 school year to support our schools.

Adds \$1.9 billion in formula aid to school districts, providing a significant increase in Foundation Aid. This proposal calls for a full phase-in of the Foundation Aid Formula by the 2022-23 school year.

The Regents State Aid Proposal also includes \$82 million in increases for reimbursement-based aids, such as Building, BOCES, and Transportation Aid, and, most importantly, would maintain the current reimbursement formulas.



Implementing the recommendations of the **Regents Early Childhood Blue Ribbon Committee** would support a clear, coherent and comprehensive strategy to ensure that all of New York State's children have the fairness of an even start and access to services that are developmentally appropriate and responsive to culture, race, ethnicity, language, citizenship status, and socioeconomic status.

The Regents recommend **\$26 million** to expand Prekindergarten:

\$20 million to allow for 2,000 additional **4-year-old children** to be served; and

\$6 million to create a single reimbursement structure **for prekindergarten inclusion programs** by blending existing prekindergarten and preschool special education funding mechanisms.



The Regents recommend **\$1.2 million** to create a team within the Department's



Regents 2020-21 Budget Priorities

Enhance Teacher Effectiveness- Albert Shanker Grants	\$132,000
Establish Bridge to College & Careers Pilot Program	\$3 million
Access to the NYS Summer School of the Arts	\$1.5 million
Expand Access to Education Programs through Cultural Institutions- The Museum Education Act	\$5 million
Increase State Aid for Library Construction	\$11 million
Build Oversight & Cap.	



Promote Positive School Climate and Bullying Prevention

2020-21 \$3.4M Budget Request

Every Child Deserves to Attend a Safe, High-Quality School and be Treated with Respect

It is critical that the state provide additional resources for schools to assess their current environment and provide them with the assistance necessary to develop and implement a plan, derived from evidence-based strategies and best practices, for improving school culture, climate, and safety. The Regents recommend expanding the Supportive Schools Grant Program to:

- provide resources to an additional 16 schools for a total of 32 schools;

- expand the capacity of the Department to support (through both technical assistance and compliance monitoring) school safety emergency response planning, and the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability requirements regarding chronic absenteeism and school suspension; and

- increase the capacity of the Center for School Safety Technical Assistance Center and Safe and Supportive Schools Technical Assistance Center to provide expert on-site technical assistance to schools and districts on school climate, implementing behavioral threat assessment teams, reducing incidents of violence, bullying and harassment, and DASA implementation.



ESSA: Support Newly Identified TSI & CSI Schools

2020-21- \$3.5M Budget Request

Help Schools & Districts Identify School-Specific Solutions Based on their Current Needs



ESSA identified a number of new federal requirements for how states work with struggling schools. Identified schools must undergo a Needs Assessment and use the results to inform their improvement plans and include an evidence-based intervention as part of it. SED provides oversight and support for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools, which are schools in the bottom 5 percent in NYS. The local school district oversees the improvement process of Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI) schools.

Funding would allow us to:

- contract with school improvement experts to lead on-site Needs Assessments at the 125 CSI schools;
- facilitate training to school districts with TSI schools so that districts can conduct Needs Assessments in all TSI schools; and
- facilitate training on Evidence-Based Interventions so that CSI and TSI schools can learn strategies to ensure that their school improvement plans are evidence-based and implemented strategically.

Establish Regional Early Learning Technical Assistance Centers

2020-21 \$1.6M Budget Request

Provide Support to Early Care and Educational Settings Across the State

The Regents Early Childhood Blue Ribbon Committee recommends the establishment of



Redesign Tuition Rate-Setting and Funding Parity

2020-21 \$12.65M Budget Request

Address Financial Stability for Approved School-Age and Preschool Programs Serving Students with Disabilities

The Department establishes annual tuition rates for over 1,000 approved special education programs at approved private schools, public schools, Special Act School Districts, and BOCES. In recent years, the volume of tuition rate appeals and waivers has increased at an unsustainable rate, resulting in funding (u)-0.6m3 (sch)-2 (o)3.u.4 (nit)

Address Teacher Shortages in Approved Private Schools Serving Students with Disabilities & Special Act Schools

2020-21 \$4M Budget Request

Special Education & Bilingual Special Education Teacher Shortages

The Special Education and Bilingual Education Teacher shortage is affecting the recruitment and retention of qualified staff to serve students with disabilities who are placed in approved special education programs, including approved private schools serving students with disabilities (853 Schools), Special Act School Districts, approved private preschool (4410) Special Class, and Special Class in an Integrated Setting programs. **Teachers working in these schools earn on average 40% less in salary than their peers in public school districts. To address these issues, the Regents recommend:**

\$2 million in new Teacher Pipeline funding to be administered through a competitive process to pilot a “grow your own educator” program. This pilot program would require the recruitment of a diverse pool of prospective teacher candidates from the local community to work in an approved program, receive training and professional development, and obtain fiscal assistance for tuition and related teacher preparation expenses; and

\$2 million to support a loan forgiveness program for staff providing instruction and related services to students at 853 Schools, Special Act School Districts, and private preschool Special Class and Special Class in an Integrated Setting programs.



Ensure Equal Opportunities for English Language Learners

2020-21 \$1.6M Budget Request

Expand Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) Support Centers

New funding would assist schools and district leaders in transforming and improving their systems to support ELL success through investments in the RBERN network. New York State currently funds eight RBERN support centers, with seven RBERNs assigned to geographic zones and one Statewide Language RBERN, to provide and conduct professional learning, technical assistance and compliance support. These funds are critical to ensure the state's ability to meet ESSA mandates because ELLs' acquisition of English language proficiency and ELL subgroup performance are key factors in accountability determinations.

This expansion will allow these centers to increase the services provided to school districts by ensuring that the RBERNs are able to support the development and reinforcement of teachers', school administrators', and district administrators' understanding of the needs of ELLs as well as investigate parent complaints, and engage in compliance and enforcement duties.



Ensure the Appropriate Provision of English Language Learner Services

2020-21 \$1M Budget Request



Support the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures 2020-21 \$200,000 Budget Request

Ensure Educational Excellence and Equity for All New York State Students



look at whether adding other equally rigorous measures of achievement could also serve New York's diverse student population;

work with a stakeholder group comprised of current or recent parents, students, educators, school board members, researchers, advocates, higher education and business leaders;

gather input from across the state to help inform recommendations to reconsider current diploma requirements;

ensure all students have access to multiple graduation measures; and

ensure a transition plan timeline allows time to prepare for and implement any changes.

Modernize the Education Finance Data System

2020-21 \$11.6M Budget Request



Transform Teacher & Leader Preparation Programs

2020-21 \$2.5M Budget Request

Funding would be used to establish research-based, innovative, high-quality birth to grade 3 teacher preparation programs (\$1.2M each year for four years) and birth to grade 12 leader preparation programs (\$1.2M each year for two years), and for staff costs to implement these initiatives (\$100,000 each year).

Approximately 240 of New York's historically underrepresented and underserved teachers and leaders would be provided opportunities to equitably access high-quality, clinically-rich, competency-based preparation programs leading to long-term careers serving New York State's diverse students, families, and communities.

Benefits of the teacher and leader preparation programs would include:

- decreased tuition costs;
- increased qualifications and experience;
- enhanced coursework and field experiences;
- advanced credit;
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Expand Certification Exam Fee Waiver Vouchers

2020-21 \$1.2M Budget Request

To promote teacher diversity and encourage more candidates to join the teaching profession in response to public school teacher shortages, the Regents recommend providing more fee waiver vouchers to assist economically disadvantaged educator candidates in paying for certification exams.

\$1.2 million would support tripling the number of vouchers currently distributed annually from 3,000 to 9,000 to cover the certification exam fees.



Bridge to College and Careers Pilot Program

2020-21 \$3M Budget Request

Enable Out-of-School Youth and Adults to Prepare for Postsecondary Study and Careers

Funding would create a Bridge to College and Career Pilot Program consisting of partnerships between adult education programs and college or training providers in each of the seven Regional Adult Education Network regions of the state.

These programs would include:

career exploration and career assessment;
relationships with employers and colleges; and
apprenticeships and internships.



Access to the New York State Summer School of the Arts

2020-21 \$1.5M Budget Request

Re-establishing a state appropriation for The New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) would ensure that sufficient funds are available to continue to provide need-blind NYSSSA programming of 9.3 (o) 1.4 (p) -0.-0.7 4





Build Technical Assistance and Support Capacity at SED 5% Set-Aside

Resources to Provide Proper Oversight & Support of New Programs

The state should enact a 5% set-aside within all new programs for administrative oversight and technical assistance at the Department.

Following the end of federal grants to the Department, and years of agency funding constraints, the Department has lost significant capacity to provide districts with implementation support and technical assistance.

Since 2011, state budgets have included new education programs for which SED has received no additional state support. As districts are faced with implementing these various programs, they rely more and more on the technical support and expertise of the Department.

It is common in federal programs and in other states for the administering agency to be allowed a set-



Webcast Regular Board of Regents Public Meetings 2020-21 \$200,000 Budget Request

Enhance Transparency at the Department

With current limited resources, the Department is only able to provide a live webcast of meetings of the Full Board of Regents. To increase transparency and



Enhance Communication with Multilingual Parents, Students and Professionals

2020-21 \$1.5M Budget Request

Support the Translation of Documents into Languages Other Than English

Due to resource constraints, the Department is not currently able to translate certain documents into languages other than English, which can limit the awareness of parents and students who do not speak English as their primary language to available educational programs and services.

Funding to translate informational and guidance documents into multiple languages would support the Department's culturally responsive-sustaining framework and improve services to ELLs and their families by providing information to families in the language they best understand.



Regents 2020 State Legislative Priorities

Mandate Relief and Flexibility – Legislation would enact a series of mandate relief measures to promote cost savings and provide relief from reporting requirements including to:

- expand the funds available to pay claims in the first-come-first served queue;
- forgive penalties associated with the late filing of Final Cost Reports (FCRs) for all school district construction projects approved by the Commissioner before July 1, 2011;
- allow districts to lease space outside of the district in certain emergency situations;
- allow transportation contracts to be submitted electronically in a form approved by the Commissioner when available; and
- authorize school districts to lease, on a temporary basis, necessary space, when the facilities of the district are under construction.

Regional Secondary Schools Advisory Council– Legislation would create an advisory council to make recommendations to expand regional high schools in the state.

Increase Access to College & Reduce the Cost to Students through ECHS & PTECH– Legislation would codify and provide a mechanism to continue successful Early College High Schools (ECHS) and PTECH programs outside of a competitive procurement process.

Improving Educational Outcomes for Justice System Involved Youth – Legislation to require the school districts of location of a juvenile justice system facility to issue a diploma for students who have fulfilled the graduation requirements while placed in a facility and to create a statutory FERPA exception so that education records can be released without written parent consent.



New York State

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Thank You.

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