



State Aid for Public School Districts

The Executive budget proposes an education funding increase of \$956 million over 2018-19, \$748 million of which consists of traditional formula-based school aid. In addition to the full-funding of expense-based aids and other categorical aids (\$410 million), the proposal includes a \$338 million increase in Foundation Aid. The Executive proposes an additional \$50 million in set-asides, restricting the use of a portion of the Foundation Aid increase for community schools. The proposal also includes \$157 million in a “Fiscal Stabilization Fund.” This proposed funding for school districts includes no specific purpose nor distribution method. The \$956 million proposal breaks down as follows:

- Foundation Aid Increase: \$338 million
 - Community Schools Set-Aside Increase: \$50 million (\$250 million total set-aside)
- Reimbursement for Expense-Based and Other Categorical Aids: \$410 million
- Fiscal Stabilization Fund: \$157 million
- Expanded Prekindergarten for Three- and Four-Year Olds: \$15 million
- Empire State After-School Programs: \$10 million
- Early College High Schools: \$9 million
- Other Education Initiatives: \$17 million

This is far lower than the \$2.2 billion in additional education funding NYSSBA recommended for 2019-20. NYSSBA calls for the final budget to dramatically increase this allocation, appropriating \$1.4 billion in Foundation Aid with a new plan to implement and update the formula. NYSSBA also calls for the elimination of restrictions on the use of Foundation Aid, including Contracts for Excellence and community schools. NYSSBA supports community schools but opposes what is in effect a mandate to establish them.

This Executive proposal also fails to include a number of notable NYSSBA budget priorities including:

- Dedicated funding to support growing student needs, including student health services, increasing ELL populations and districts with growing enrollments.
- An increase in the outdated cap on the BOCES CTE aidable salary amount, paired with an increase in special services aid for non-component districts.
- Amnesty for districts facing building or transportation aid penalties due to administrative or clerical errors.
- An improved tuition rate methodology and creation of a fiscal stabilization reserve for special act school districts.
- School district access to budgetary tools that improve fiscal planning, including a Teachers Retirement System (TRS) reserve and a reserve of districts with self-funded insurance plans.

NYSSBA urges inclusion of these changes in the final 2019-20 budget. For additional information, please contact NYSSBA Governmental Relations at 518-783-0200.