



**Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc.**

## **Press Release**

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### **Governor Cuomo Proposes Largest School Cut in History of New York State** *Proposal Undermines New York's Commitment to Quality Schools and Equal Educational Opportunity*

#### **Statement of Billy Easton, Executive Director, Alliance for Quality Education**

“Governor Cuomo’s budget pulls the rug out on children’s education by cutting literacy programs, career and technical education, college prep, pre-K, arts, music, sports, tutoring, guidance counselors and school librarians. Governor Cuomo’s cuts to our kids’ schools are the largest in history, if they are adopted the damage to students will be permanent because children do not get a second chance. The primary beneficiaries of budget cuts to our schools are the wealthiest three percent of New Yorkers who have been singled out for a multi-billion dollar tax cut. In 2007, after 13 years of delays by George Pataki, New York State finally committed to stop shortchanging the kids in our neediest schools, this budget undercuts that commitment by taking an enormous bite out of funding to close the achievement gap in our neediest schools.”

#### **Statement by Geri Palast, Executive Director, Campaign for Fiscal Equity**

“Education, as Governor Cuomo pointed out, is the civil rights issue of this generation. New York still has a two-tier public education system that does not provide adequate resources for our neediest students to receive a quality education. Despite this accurate picture which was to be remedied by constitutional litigation and legislated promises, another generation of school children will see their education sacrificed again on the altar of fiscal discipline when tax cuts to the wealthiest New Yorkers are on the table. This proposed \$1.5 billion cut comes on top of a \$1.4 billion cut last year, a freeze on classroom aid to prioritize the neediest students the year before, and this during a period when school funding increases were slated in response to a court order finding that our schools cannot deliver the constitutional right to a sound basic education. To restore education equity and close the achievement gap, we must put the kids first.”

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