



**THE 2012-13 STATE BUDGET** The Governor's proposed budget committed to increase school funding by \$805 million this year, but diverted \$250 million into competitive grants. Our advocacy efforts focused on getting the competitive grants redirected to classroom aid, ensuring that high need schools were prioritized, and getting the state to invest in pre-kindergarten. As a result of a statewide unified effort and plenty of hard work the final budget:

- **Redirects \$200 million of the proposed competitive grant funds to classroom aid**
- **Prioritizes high need districts**
- **Prevents back door cuts to pre-k.**

**Also, the Legislature rejected cuts to early intervention services for children with special needs as well as to special education for pre-school children.**

**OUR ADVOCACY MATTERS** If not for our 2011 victory that modified the state's tax code structure, we most likely would have been facing another round of budget cuts.

If not for the large numbers of advocates traveling to Albany in January, February and March to speak up for our children, there may not have been such a response from our elected officials.



**\$805 MILLION DOESN'T FIX \$2.7 BILLION IN SCHOOL CUTS** Due to \$2.7 billion in state budget cuts to schools, many children have lost college prep and Advanced Placement Courses, Career & Technical Education, arts, music, sports, tutoring, foreign languages, high school electives, after school programs, librarians, guidance counselors and more. Some schools have even cut kindergarten to half-day. Even with this year's \$805 million restoration, many school districts are still going to have to make painful cuts to staff and critical programs such as college prep, after school, tutoring, art, music, sports and more.

**WHAT NOW?** This state budget is inadequate to address the growing education crisis in New York State. It is critically important that all of us who are dedicated to improving our public schools and protecting our children's future continue to raise our voices.

- Stay involved and get others involved by:
  - Signing up for regular updates [www.aqeny.org](http://www.aqeny.org)
  - Meeting with your local legislators.
  - Submitting an opinion editorial and letter to the editor to local papers.
  - Telling the impact of state budget cuts on local schools to your local reporters.