

**2006:** The New York State Court of Appeals ruled in Campaign for Fiscal Equity vs. NYS that NYS students were not being granted a “sound basic education” by the state.

**2007-2009:** *\$2.3 billion was allocated* to schools in Foundation Aid as the proposed four year \$5.5 billion dollar CFE phase-in began. Schools began expanding programs and services.

**2009:** During this budget cycle the state *did not increase funding* for the Foundation Aid formula. This ended the state’s proposed 4-year phase-in.

**2010-2012:** *\$2.7 billion was cut* from school aid during the recession, more than 75% of which was from Foundation Aid. Districts throughout the state were forced to cut back on programs, supplies, and staff positions.

**2012-2015:** During this three year period the state *increased Foundation Aid by only \$540 million.*

**2015-2017:** Levels of Foundation Aid in the state budget still remain much lower than the CFE recommendation. Today, *schools are still owed \$3.9 billion* in Foundation Aid, most of which is owed to districts with high percentages of black and brown students.

## Understanding New York State Education Funding

### Concepts to Understand

#### *The Campaign For Fiscal Equity:*

Once the 10+ year court battle was finally over, schools were ordered to receive \$5.5 billion in basic operating aid (also known as Foundation Aid) statewide over the course of a four year phase-in from 2007 to 2011.

**But 10 years later, the 4 year phase-in is still not complete.**

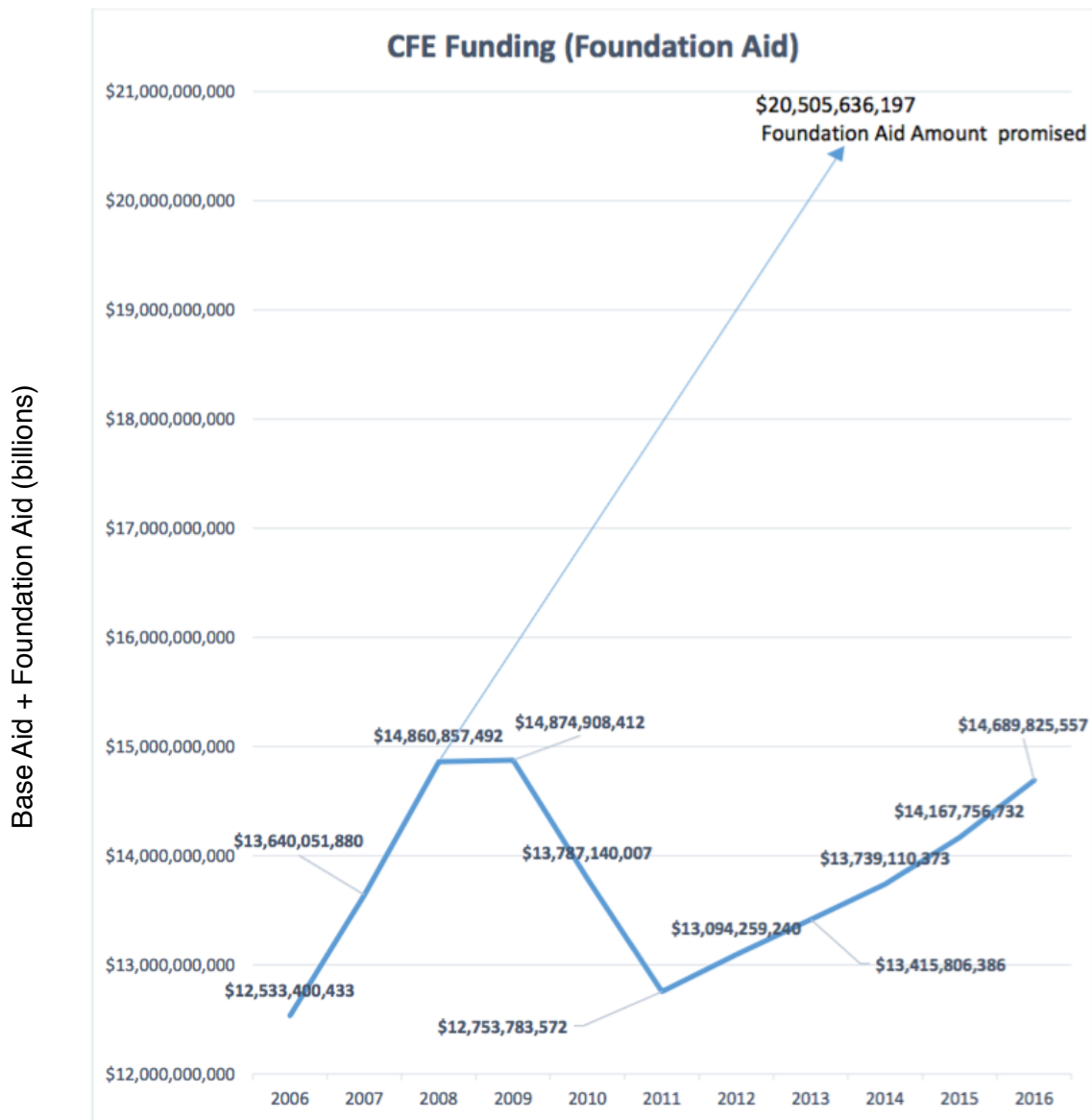
**Foundation Aid Formula:** The Foundation Aid formula (created in response to the CFE case) uses a fair methodology to distribute aid based on student need. It accounts for the inequality in income and property wealth of local school districts or cities by expecting the state to do more to fund schools in needier communities. It was intended to close the spending gap between districts and create an equitable education system for all students.

#### *Where does NYS education funding come from?*

**8%:** From the Federal Government through income taxes.

**40% - 90%:** From the state government. Varies depending on the levels of need in each district.

**10% - 50%:** From the local school district through property taxes.



## Countering Common Claims

<b><i>“Money Doesn’t Matter”</i></b>	Of course the sheer amount of money matters! Money buys programs that benefit all students like music, art, AP courses, Pre-K, after-school programs, technology, college prep courses, etc...
<b><i>“NYS Already Spends Too Much on Education”</i></b>	Yes it is true that New York State has one of the highest education budgets in the country. But NYS also has one of the highest levels of inequality in the country, and one of the highest percentages of childhood poverty. Because of this, the state has struggled to distribute funds equitably. In fact, the spending gap between wealthy and high-need districts is close to \$9,000 per pupil. This means that high-need school districts are continuously forced to cut programs and staff due to insufficient funds while wealthier districts are able to expand programs and student opportunities.
<b><i>“The Foundation Aid Formula Doesn’t Work”</i></b>	The formula does work. This was made evident by the significant improvements that schools saw between 2007 and 2008. The problem is that it simply has not been adequately funded since 2008.
<b><i>“NYS Has Restored Aid so Schools Don’t Have to Make Any More Cuts”</i></b>	Even though NYS has restored some of the money that was cut from education during the recession, rising costs and increased burden on local districts has forced schools to continue making cuts. And moreover the state still owes schools across the state \$3.8 billion in Foundation Aid — of which \$1.6 billion alone is owed to New York City.