

# #WeCantWait

## We Can't Wait for Every Public School to be a Great Public School



[www.AQENY.org](http://www.AQENY.org)

## New York State has Record Setting Inequality in Education

*Under Governor Cuomo the Inequality Gap between schools in wealthy and poor districts has grown to record setting levels. Wealthy schools spend \$8,733 more per students than poor ones.*

## We know what works in education, but New York State is not doing its job

- Every four year old needs pre-K. It's not enough to promise pre-K, the state needs to deliver.
- Every school in high need communities should be a Community School.
- Every student, not just those in wealthy schools, needs a high quality curriculum to prepare them for college, careers and life.
- Focus on teaching and learning not testing and punishing.
- Programs for English language learners including immigrant unaccompanied minors.
- A supportive school climate that keeps students in school and does not push them out through harsh and punitive discipline.
- Meaningful engagement and respect for students, parents, teachers, administrators and community members.

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### End Educational Inequality and Support the Strategies that work

- **\$2.2 billion in new school aid:**
  - To fund Pre-K statewide (\$250 million)
  - To support community schools
  - To have engaging and challenging curriculum and resources in every school
  - To End Inequality. These funds should be distributed using both Foundation Aid and the Gap Elimination Adjustment restoration formula, with the majority of the funding going through Foundation Aid which benefits high need communities.
- **Focus on Teaching and Learning, not Testing and Punishing**
  - Eliminate high stakes testing that encourages teaching to the test, do not measure student learning and do nothing to improve instruction.
  - Provide supports for high quality teaching through mentoring, planning time and resources.
- **Keep the Public in Public Schools and Hold Charter Schools Accountable**
  - Keep the charter school cap at its current level.
  - Take measures to increase accountability, transparency, and oversight of charters, as well as parent and community engagement.
- **Focus on sustainable school improvement through meaningful parent and community engagement**
  - Implement proven to work strategies such as high quality curriculum, programs for ELLs, community schools and real parent and community engagement, instead of turning schools over to a "receiver" who will supersede voters, educators, and elected school boards.
- **Stop Privatization, Fund Public Education**
  - Reject tax credits and vouchers that drain our public schools to subsidize private and charter schools and benefit wealthy individuals.