



2015 AQE's Highlights and Accomplishments

Since 2000, the Alliance for Quality Education has been leading the fight for education equity. Combining legislative and policy expertise with grassroots organizing, AQE advances the cause for a quality public school for all.

Here are just a few of our highlights from 2015.

Budget Victories

- \$1.6 billion increase in school funding, including \$1.3 in direct aid to schools.
- \$75 million going directly to improve struggling schools
- \$30 million to expand Pre-K for both 3 and 4 year-olds throughout the state.

Legislative Victories

- We defeated an outrageous education tax credit that would have siphoned \$300 million away from public schools to fund private schools and would have used our tax dollars to reimburse private school donors up to \$1 million a piece.
- We defeated a proposed massive increase in the cap on privately run charter schools, with no increase in the cap.

More Successes

- We influenced New York State Regents to modify their rules on receivership to include some of the concerns of parents and the community.
- We exposed hedge fund billionaires who are spending tens of millions in political donations to try and seize control over our public schools.

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January

Moral Monday in New York demanding education policies and budget that finally addresses equity, protects public schools and respects parents, students and teachers.

The Alliance for Quality Education and thousands of parents, students, and teachers rallied on the Million Dollar Staircase in the State Capitol to emphasize the state's moral obligation to fund education fairly and equitably; and to stop hedge fund billionaires from taking over public education. Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. William Barber addressed the crowd that spilled over onto three floors.

We also released *Record Setting Inequality*, a report that showed that educational inequality in New York is widening, with wealthier district spending an average of a whopping \$8,733 more per pupil.



February

REPORT: Invoice to the Governor: Payment Due!

It's the first report of its kind to put a number on how much state education funding is owed to every single public school in New York City and throughout the state.

The report was accompanied by a website, www.cfemoneyowednys.org that parsed out how much every school in New York is owed.



Robert Jackson, who spearheaded the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, led the Parade for Education down State Street in Albany.

March

More than 1,400 Converge on Albany for a Parade for Public Education.

Parents, students, teachers and community members join Alliance for Quality Education for a rally and lobby day. Once at the Capitol, protesters gathered in front of the Governor's office to demand the \$5.9 billion owed to New York State's public schools.

May

Education Advocates and Community Groups Rallied in Support of Revising the Code of Conduct for Rochester

The Alliance for Quality Education along with parents and students gathered at the Rochester City School District Board of Education meeting to demand the board adopt a revised code of conduct.

The new code will decrease large numbers of minority and disabled students from being suspended and arrested, thus ending the school-to-prison pipeline.

June

Parents, Educators and Taxpayers Say 'No' to Raising Charter Cap with Petition having Nearly 30,000 Signatures Delivered to the Gov. Cuomo's Office

The Alliance for Quality Education and allies delivered the 160-foot long petition to Gov. Cuomo's office. Thousands of parents, educators and taxpayers across the state tell Gov. Cuomo and the Republican-led Senate to not raise the charter cap.

We also defeated a \$14 million campaign to secure a tax credit for billionaires who donate to private and parochial schools.





July

Report Reveals Buffalo Schools' New Code of Conduct Results in More Days in School, Fewer Suspensions. Despite Good Outcomes, Racial Disparities Continue, Vague Infractions a Problem

The Alliance for Quality Education and allies released a report showing that the restorative justice code of conduct at Buffalo City Schools that we fought for and helped create, decreased suspensions by 36 percent, resulting in more days in school for students.

Reports Released

- ***Record Setting Inequality: New York's Opportunity Gap Is Wider Than Ever***
- ***Children Can't Wait: Make Quality Early Learning a Top Priority in the 2015 Enacted Budget***
- ***Gubernatorial Delinquency: Cuomo's Failure to Fund New York City & New York State Public Schools***
- ***Prioritizing Equity: Lessons for Budget Negotiators from Senate and Assembly Education Budget Proposals***
- ***Restoring Justice in Buffalo Public Schools: Safe and Supportive Quality Education for All***

Organizing Locally

- We have a statewide presence with main offices in New York City and Albany with local branches in Long Island, the Hudson Valley, Rochester and Buffalo.
- Developing grassroots leaders who lobby and rally to affect change in their communities.

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