

PAY TO PLAY

Charter Schools & the IDC



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The Alliance for Quality Education is a coalition mobilizing communities across the state to keep New York true to its promise of ensuring a high-quality public school education to all students regardless of zip code. Combining its legislative and policy expertise with grassroots organizing, AQE advances proven-to-work strategies that lead to student success and echoes a powerful public demand for a high-quality public school education for all of New York's students.

The IDC received \$676,850 from charter school political donors.

Over the past six years, the Independent Democratic Conference, a group of breakaway Democrats who support Republican control of the New York State Senate, have received \$676,850 from charter school political donors. These political donors, including hedge fund managers and their political action committees, have been rewarded by the IDC as seen in the 2017 state budget where privately-run charter schools got much larger funding increases per pupil than public schools. The IDC-Republican advocacy for privately-run charter schools at the expense of public schools runs counter to the IDC's public pronouncements that they are championing public school funding and the Campaign for Fiscal Equity. The IDC is empowering pro-privatization, pro-Trump Republicans to run the State Senate even though it hurts the more than one million public school students they represent.

The table below lists the charter school-affiliated individual and political action donations made to IDC members and to committees specifically benefiting the IDC.

Senators Hamilton and Peralta are not included in the list of IDC members shown below. Senator Jesse Hamilton joined the IDC on November 7, 2016. Senator Jose Peralta joined in January 2017. The two senators however, have a long history of receiving donations from the charter industry. Over the years, the donations they received come to a total of \$ 11,500 for and \$26,500 for Peralta. This money is in addition to the total shown in this report.

Senator Marisol Alcantara, the newest IDC member, ran as an IDC candidate, therefore all the donations made to her campaign are included.

Date	First Name	Last Name	Amount	Recipient
1/8/2014	JOEL	GREENBLATT	\$5,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
5/26/2016	ROGER	HERTOG	\$10,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
5/2/2016	SUSAN	HERTOG	\$10,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
7/16/2013	ROGER	HERTOG	\$5,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
2/14/2014	ROGER	HERTOG	\$5,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
12/17/2013	ROGER	HERTOG	\$45,000	THE IDC INITIATIVE
2/15/2015	ROGER	HERTOG	\$25,000	THE IDC INITIATIVE
7/16/2013	MICHAEL	LEFELL	\$5,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
2/12/2014	MICHAEL	LEFFELL	\$5,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
7/10/2016	DANIEL	LOEB	\$8,500	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
9/7/2016	DANIEL	LOEB	\$50,000	SENATE INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
5/20/2015	DANIEL	LOEB	\$2,500	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
5/28/2014	DANIEL	LOEB	\$1,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
9/9/2016	THOMAS	MCINERNEY	\$100,000	SENATE INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

12/15/2012	DANIEL	NIR	\$7,350	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
1/9/2014	DANIEL	NIR	\$5,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
9/5/2014	JOHN	PETRY	\$2,000	TONY AVELLA FOR NEW YORK
8/31/2016	JOHN	PETRY	\$11,000	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
1/9/2014	JOHN	PETRY	\$6,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
10/24/2011	JOHN	SABAT	\$1,000	CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK
6/14/2011	JOHN	SABAT	\$5,000	NEW YORKERS FOR KLEIN
1/11/2012	JOHN	SABAT	\$2,800	NEW YORKERS FOR KLEIN
11/16/2011	JOHN	SABAT	\$2,000	NEW YORKERS FOR KLEIN
10/27/2011	JOHN	SABAT	\$1,000	VALESKY FOR SENATE
9/6/2014	PAUL	TUDOR JONES	\$10,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
	Total		\$330,150	

The IDC also benefited from donations from charter PACs. The table below lists that donations made to the IDC members and to the IDC campaign committees since its members left the Democratic Conference.

Date	POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	Amount	Recipient
3/4/2014	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM	\$2,000	VALESKY FOR SENATE
7/21/2014	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM	\$2,500	TONY AVELLA FOR NEW YORK
8/4/2014	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM	\$2,500	TONY AVELLA FOR NEW YORK
6/13/2015	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM	\$1,000	TONY AVELLA FOR NEW YORK
11/7/2016	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM	\$7,000	DAVID CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK
11/3/2016	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM	\$2,500	PEOPLE FOR MARISOL ALCANTARA
10/2/2015	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NY ACCOUNT	\$500	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK
10/31/2016	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NY ACCOUNT	\$1,500	VALESKY FOR SENATE
11/8/2016	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NY ACCOUNT	\$1,500	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK
2/12/2011	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS	\$500	VALESKY FOR SENATE
5/19/2011	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS	\$500	VALESKY FOR SENATE
12/5/2011	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS	\$8,000	VALESKY FOR SENATE
8/4/2014	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS	\$1,000	VALESKY FOR SENATE
11/9/2011	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS PAC	\$8,000	NEW YORKERS FOR KLEIN
4/25/2013	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS PAC	\$500	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
7/10/2013	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS PAC	\$1,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
1/7/2014	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS PAC	\$10,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
1/7/2014	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS PAC	\$10,000	THE IDC INITIATIVE
3/16/2015	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS PAC	\$1,000	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
6/25/2015	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS PAC	\$5,000	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
1/7/2016	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS PAC	\$1,500	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
1/7/2016	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS PAC	\$500	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
11/7/2016	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM NYS PAC	\$2,000	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
6/9/2014	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM PAC	\$5,300	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
11/7/2016	DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM	\$2,500	TONY AVELLA FOR NEW YORK
3/15/2011	EDUCATION REFORM NOW ADVOCACY	\$5,000	NEW YORKERS FOR KLEIN
3/15/2011	EDUCATION REFORM NOW ADVOCACY	\$5,000	NEW YORKERS FOR KLEIN
3/19/2012	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK
11/1/2012	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$5,000	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK
11/6/2012	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$5,000	CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK
3/1/2013	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK

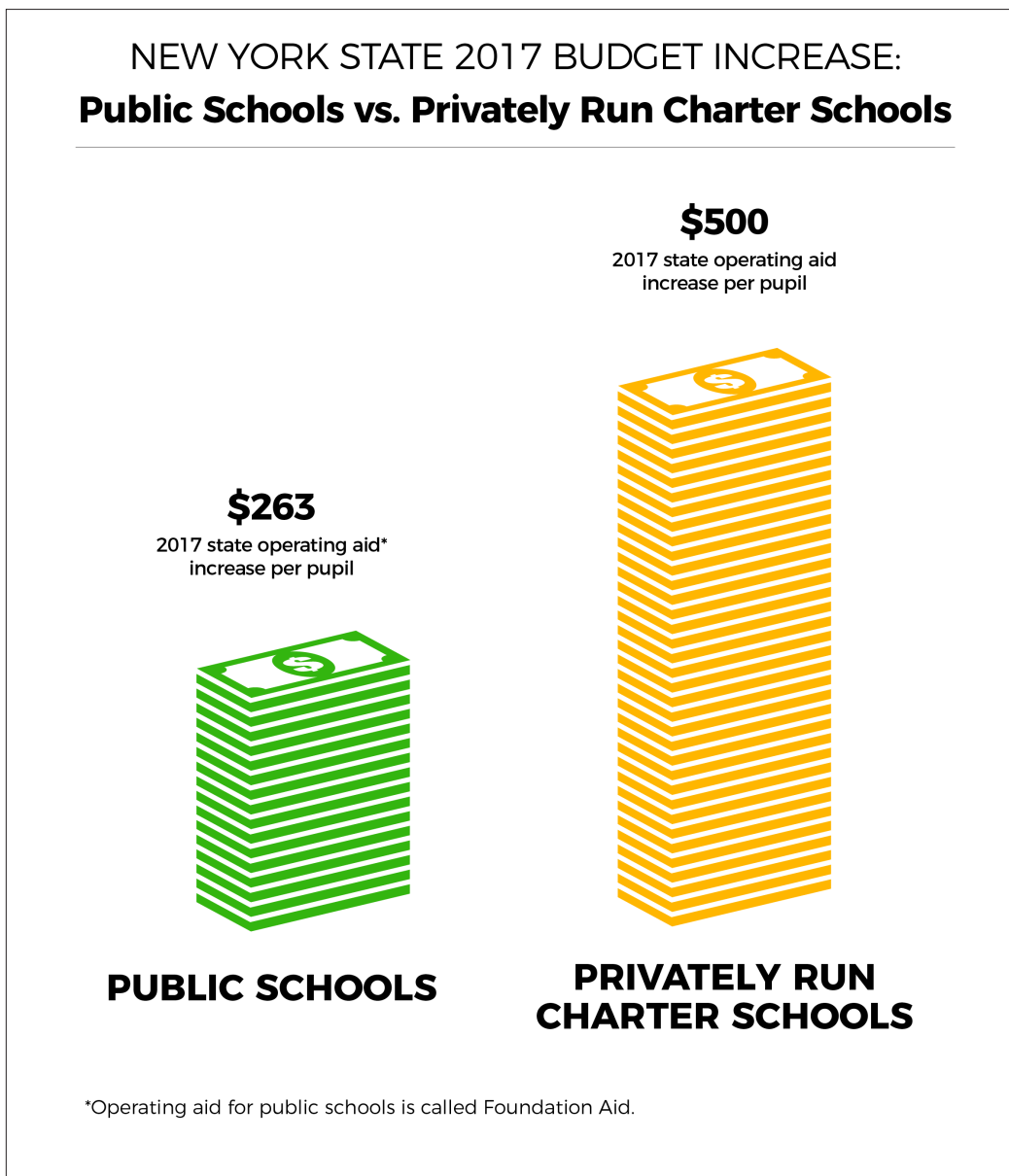
3/13/2013	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK
6/18/2013	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	DAVID CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK
7/11/2013	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$1,000	DAVID CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK
10/4/2013	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$2,500	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK
11/17/2013	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$2,500	DAVID CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK
1/8/2014	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$2,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
9/22/2012	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$10,000	THE IDC INITIATIVE
1/27/2014	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$2,500	VALESKY FOR SENATE
2/3/2014	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	TONY AVELLA FOR NEW YORK
3/13/2014	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$3,000	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK
5/10/2014	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$5,000	TONY AVELLA FOR NEW YORK
8/4/2014	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$4,800	TONY AVELLA FOR NEW YORK
8/4/2014	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	VALESKY FOR SENATE
10/22/2014	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK
3/10/2015	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	DAVID CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK
3/12/2015	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK
3/16/2015	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$5,000	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
5/11/2015	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	VALESKY FOR SENATE
1/7/2016	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$1,000	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
3/21/2016	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$500	VALESKY FOR SENATE
6/7/2016	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$1,000	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
6/10/2016	EDUCATIONAL FUND	\$1,500	DAVID CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK
3/18/2013	EDUCATIONAL FUND PAC	\$1,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
6/28/2013	EDUCATIONAL FUND PAC	\$5,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
6/24/2014	EDUCATIONAL FUND PAC	\$6,500	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
6/24/2014	EDUCATIONAL FUND PAC	\$2,300	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
1/8/2014	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS PAC	\$5,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
6/23/2014	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS PAC	\$1,000	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
10/7/2015	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS PAC	\$5,000	THE IDC INITIATIVE
7/1/2014	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS PAC	\$2,500	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
11/1/2016	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS PAC	\$2,500	PEOPLE FOR MARISOL ALCANTARA
7/10/2012	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	\$2,500	NEW YORKERS FOR KLEIN
12/15/2012	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	\$10,300	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
6/30/2015	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	\$5,000	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
10/19/2015	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	\$5,000	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK

2/24/2016	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	\$6,000	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
3/18/2016	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	\$2,000	SAVINO FOR NEW YORK
9/19/2016	GREAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	\$25,000	SENATE INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
10/18/2012	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$5,000	NEW YORKERS FOR KLEIN
7/5/2013	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$2,500	JEFF KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
7/7/2015	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$2,500	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
1/7/2016	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$2,000	SENATE INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
7/10/2012	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$5,000	THE IDC INITIATIVE
10/21/2015	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$1,000	THE IDC INITIATIVE
1/14/2014	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$10,000	THE IDC INITIATIVE
3/16/2016	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$5,000	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
9/9/2016	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$25,000	SENATE INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
10/27/2016	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$50,000	SENATE INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
6/13/2016	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$1,500	KLEIN FOR NEW YORK
11/1/2016	NEW YORKERS FOR PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST	\$5,000	PEOPLE FOR MARISOL ALCANTARA
4/17/2012	NY FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION REFORM & ACCOUNTABILITY	\$500	CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK
10/18/2012	NY FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION REFORM & ACCOUNTABILITY	\$500	CARLUCCI FOR NEW YORK
	Total	\$346,700	

The Senate Independence Campaign Committee (SICC) was specifically formed by the Independence Party but is chaired by IDC chair Senator Jeff Klein. The SICC is a formal party campaign committee which allows donors to circumvent the much stricter limits on donations to candidates because the limits on donations to party committees are much higher as are the limits on how much party committees can give to candidates.

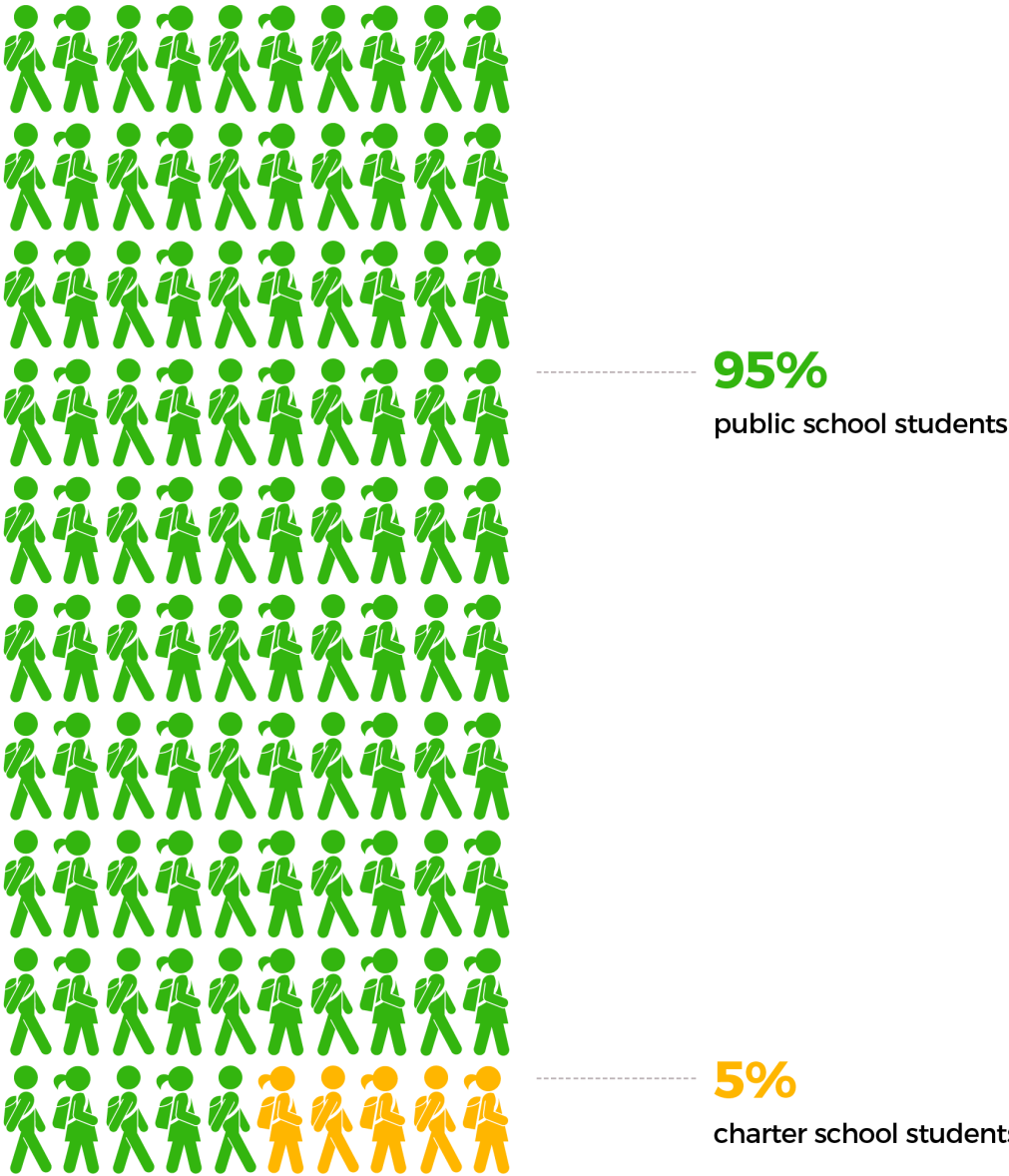
IDC Rewards its Charter School Donors

During the 2017-18 state budget process, the IDC, working in lock-step with their Republican Senate Coalition partners, rewarded their charter school donors by delivering a larger funding increase per pupil to privately-run charter schools than to public schools. This happened simultaneous to Donald Trump and Betsy DeVos proposing massive federal funding increases for privately-run charter schools at the expense of public schools. The operating aid increase for charter schools was twice as large as the per student operating aid, also known as Foundation Aid, increase that public schools received. The chart below illustrates that privately run charters received \$500 per student increase in operating aid, whereas public schools received a \$263 per student increase in Foundation Aid.



Public schools educate 2.6 million students across the state. Only about 100,000 students attend privately run charters.

NEW YORK STATE STUDENT ENROLLMENT: Public Schools vs. Privately Run Charter Schools



Campaign for Fiscal Equity Formula: Foundation Aid

New York State has gone through a school aid equity lawsuit filed by parents against the state in 1993. The case known as the Campaign for Fiscal Equity went through all levels of court, the final ruling given by the Court of Appeals in 2006 affirmed that the state was violating the state constitution by chronically underfunding schools. The final ruling called on the state to provide a remedy. In response, the New York State Legislature and then Governor Spitzer, replaced 30 funding formulas with a needs-based, wealth equalizing formula known as the Foundation Aid, and committed to providing a \$5.5 billion increase in operating aid to schools across the state over the course of four years. Only two years of the phase-in were completed and most of the funding was cut during 2010 and 2011. The state currently owes \$3.6 billion of that money.

On CFE Funding: IDC Actions Don't Live Up to their Words

At the launch of the 2017 Legislative Session, the Speaker of the State Assembly publicly called for full funding for Foundation Aid to resolve the Campaign for Fiscal Equity in a speech on the floor of the Assembly. The Assembly passed a budget bill that would do just that including a \$1.4 billion increase in Foundation Aid this year and a four-year phase-in of the total.

In a press release, the IDC committed to also support full CFE funding. In a press released from the IDC asserted that, *"The IDC proposes making a \$1.47 billion investment directly to the Foundation Aid formula, for the first year of a three-year commitment to achieve complete funding."*¹ But when the Senate Democrats proposed an amendment in the Senate that would have phased in Foundation Aid entirely within three years—the exact demand that was contained in the IDC press release—the IDC joined with the Republicans to defeat the proposal.

When it was time for the IDC-Republican Coalition to adopt a Senate Budget bill, the IDC voted to gut the Foundation Aid formula rather than to fully fund it as their press release promised.

IDC-Senate Republican Budget Bill Gutted the Foundation Aid Formula by proposing to:

- Eliminate student poverty as a factor in Foundation Aid
- Eliminate students with disabilities as a factor in Foundation Aid
- Dramatically alter aid for English Language Learners so that much of it would go to districts with few of these students
- Place artificial caps on funding for New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, & Yonkers that would shortchange large city schools

¹ <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/david-j-valesky/idc-releases-its-changing-new-york-agenda>