

2020-2021 Budget	Executive Proposal	NYS Board of Regents Recommendations	Alliance for Quality Education Demands
<b>Total Proposed School Aid Increase</b>	<p>The executive proposal includes a <b>\$826 million total school aid increase</b>, including grants such as pre-K, after school, early college high school, etc.</p> <p>This proposal is smaller than last year's and is far less than what public schools need to maintain services.</p>	\$2 billion Increase	\$2.4 billion Increase
<b>Phase-in of Foundation Aid Formula</b>	<p><b>No Phase-In</b> Governor Cuomo has not committed to a multi-year investment to meet the state's constitutional obligation of "a Sound Basic Education" for all students.</p>	<p>3 Year Phase-In Restoration of an inflationary adjustment (called the "phase-in foundation percent") over a three-year period, and the full phase-in the formula by the 2021-22 school year.</p>	<p>2 Year Phase-In The Foundation Aid formula and fulfills the commitment made in the 2007 budget as the statewide legislative settlement of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity.</p>
<b>Foundation Aid</b>	<p><b>\$504 million and \$200 million unallocated as Fiscal Stabilization Fund</b> The school aid runs reflect the \$504 million increase to school districts across the state. The executive proposal includes an additional \$200 million that are targeted to high need schools, but is currently not allocated.</p> <p>The proposal merges 10 existing expense-based aids into the Foundation Aid Formula. This would give the illusion of spending more in Foundation Aid, without actually increasing aid to school districts.</p>	<p>\$1.9 billion and \$1.2 million for studying and proposing the necessary updates of the formula in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Successful Schools methodology currently used in the Foundation Aid formula, and whether revisions are warranted in light of the ongoing discussions about diploma requirements.</li> <li>• The Regional Cost Index, which has been frozen at the same levels in statute since 2006.</li> <li>• Measurements of student need, district fiscal capacity, and the relationship between those elements and student achievement.</li> </ul>	<p>\$2 billion Foundation Aid has not been adequately funded since 2008. Committing \$2 billion of the \$3.8 billion remaining to be provided in year one of the two-year phase-in we are recommending.</p> <p>In addition, a series of revisions to the inputs of the formula to capture accurate student and district need. For details, please see <a href="https://www.toolkit.aqeny.org/legislative-priorities">https://www.toolkit.aqeny.org/legislative-priorities'</a></p>

The executive proposal also puts caps on Building aid and Transportation aid, which would likely mean more cost shifting from the state to local school districts.

\$50 million set aside for Community Schools is included in Foundation Aid. This funding is taken out of the total Foundation Aid amount.

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**Contract for Excellence**

The Executive proposal maintains the Contract for Excellence (C4E) for 2020-21. The Contracts for Excellence were implemented in 2007 when the Foundation Aid formula was enacted, as an accountability system for high needs school districts that were receiving large increases of operating aid.

The Contracts for Excellence is an accountability system that requires the school districts to go through a public process to justify how they will spending their large Foundation Aid increase. Districts are required to identify one of the seven options (all evidence-based) they were investing in, and, in which school. The programs or program areas that the C4E includes are:

- expanding pre-K
- implementing programs for English Language Learners
- restructuring the day for middle and high school
- decreasing class sizes
- increasing time on task
- increasing principal and teacher quality
- experimental programs

<p><b>Community Schools</b></p>	<p><b>No increase in separate funding for community schools</b>  Foundation Aid includes a \$50 million set aside for community schools.</p> <p>The executive proposal also continues the <b>\$1.2 million for the Regional Technical Assistance Centers.</b></p>	<p>No Increase as the Regents note that their proposed increase in Foundation Aid is adequate to provide for students' needs and for the care of the whole child.</p>	<p>\$100 million increase  Increase Community School funding to ensure the momentum from the successes of community schools across the state continue. Ensure that community school funding is separate from Foundation Aid.</p>
<p><b>Pre-K</b></p>	<p><b>\$15 million</b> for expansion of access  To expand half-day and full-day Pre-K for three and four year olds.</p> <p>The executive proposal would increase access to full day pre-K by only 2,000 seats. Currently, there are 77,000 four year olds outside of New York City that cannot go to pre-K because there are not enough seats.</p>	<p>\$26 million for expansion of access  \$20 million for the addition of 2,000 more children to be served, which would bring the overall percentage of students served in New York State to just under 70%.</p> <p>\$6 million for pilot programs which will target half- and full-day 10-month and summer inclusion prekindergarten programs for three- and four-year olds.</p>	<p>\$150 million for expansion of access and quality to all 3- and 4-year-olds in the State.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· \$125 million to expand access to pre-K full-day and part-day for both three- and four-year-olds. Funding levels should be sufficient to assure quality in all settings and produce better educational outcomes for children. The state should set minimum per-child rate of \$10,000 for four--year-olds and \$12,000 for three-year-olds.</li> <li>· \$25 million to enhance quality and eliminate barriers to expansion, as districts expand pre-K.</li> </ul>



## Charter Schools

While public schools are getting a 3 increase, the executive budget requires New York City charter schools to receive a 5.3% increase.

The executive proposal includes \$50 million reimbursement to New York City for facilities aid provided to charter schools.

The Executive budget proposes to re-issue any charter that was revoked, expired, or surrendered in New York City. This proposal essentially lifts the New York City charter cap by nearly 20 schools. NYC already sends over \$2 billion from its budget to charter schools, with current charters in the pipeline, existing charters expanding, and the Governor's 5.3% increase to charters this mandate could cost NYC additional hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

The Executive budget includes a 3% increase to charter schools outside New York City.

## No Proposal

5 Year Moratorium on New Charter Schools  
The continuous decrease in funding for public schools in order to fund charter schools undermines the efforts of local school districts. With a five-year moratorium on new charters, we can stop hindering the success of school districts while continuing to support existing charter schools. During this time we need to collect hard data on public schools and charter schools. In five years, we will review the data and lift the moratorium if necessary, or accept that traditional public schools can and will educate our future workforce and leaders.

<p><b>Creating a Positive School Climate</b></p>	<p>The executive proposal includes \$18 million for My Brother’s Keeper, a program to improve outcomes for young boys and young men of color.</p> <p>\$3 million is provided for restorative justice practices and alternatives discipline and trauma informed education.</p> <p>The executive proposal discontinues the \$2 million Safe and Supportive Schools grant and the \$500,000 teacher diversity grant for Buffalo.</p>	<p>No proposal</p>	<p>\$50 million</p> <p>We support increased investment in restorative justice practices as an effective alternative to punitive responses to wrongdoing. Restorative practices offer a more sustainable, equitable, and respectful alternative to dealing with misbehaviors. They can also be used as a proactive strategy to create a culture of connectivity and care where all members of the school community can thrive.</p>
<p><b>Culturally Responsive Education</b></p>	<p>Includes \$1 million for the instruction of civic values, diversity history and religious freedom.</p>	<p>No proposal (though the Regents and SED have created a framework on culturally responsive and sustaining education).</p>	<p><b>Invest \$50 million so that</b> New York State public schools offer a variety of classes, curricula, projects, books and resources that are grounded in the rich diversity of the New York State student population. Students should be learning about the histories and cultures of African, Latino, Asian, Middle Eastern and Native heritage people in New York schools, and the intersections with gender, LGBTQIA and religious diversity. Every child should have access to anti-racism and anti-bias education.</p>

## Special Education

The executive proposal includes a provision to provide broad waivers from laws and regulations regarding class size, behavior intervention plans, and notification of changes in placement.

These waivers have been included every year in the executive proposal. If passes, they will take away some students' rights. The legislature has rejected this provision every year it was proposed.

The executive proposed an increase of 2% for reimbursement rates for preschool special education providers.

**Increase reimbursement rates for Preschool Special Education and evaluations by at least 10%** to ensure services for every child in need of them.

Reject any attempt to circumvent students' rights to the services and programming they need.

## Student Welcome Grants

The executive proposal includes \$1.5 million for a refugee and immigrant student welcome program. \$500,000 of this grant is specifically designated for school districts on Long Island for community schools, supplies for new students, training, counseling and family engagement.

AQE agrees with investment for new refugee and immigrant students. The executive proposal is a small step in the right direction.

**Adult Literacy Education**

The Executive proposal funds Adult Literacy Education at \$6.293,000. This is the same level as in the 2019-2020 executive proposal.

The 2020-21 executive budget does carry forward the \$1.5m from the prior budget.

N/A

Invest \$25m in NYSED Funding for Adult Literacy Education (ALE)

Maintain last year's \$7.8m investment and increase ALE by \$17.2million.

Adult Education programs are critical to enabling New Yorkers to get and keep jobs, continue on their career paths and give parents tools to support their children's academic success.

## Child Care

No increase of child care funding for subsidies or workforce development.

New York State should invest in its youngest children by investing \$100 million in child care.

Specifically, New York should commit to achieving universal access to quality, affordable child care by 2025.

Also, New York should be on a path to meeting the goal of universal access, and to curb the loss of providers and the exodus of educators from the field while working toward this goal, New York makes significant building block investments in child care this year, including:

1. Investing at least \$40M to create a fund to increase workforce compensation and improve child care quality. Low compensation for child care educators leaves many educators living in or near poverty. It also leads to high workforce turnover rates, causing instability for infants and young children who need consistency in caregivers in order to establish healthy and secure attachments. Priority should be given to programs that serve low-income families and care for infants and toddlers; and
2. Investing at least \$60 million to take meaningful steps toward achieving universal access to quality, affordable child care by 2025 by incrementally increasing the guaranteed eligibility levels and decreasing the co-payment multiplier.

## Revenues

The Executive proposal includes a series of adjustments of tax credits.

Of note:

- the Executive proposes denying STAR to homeowners that have unpaid property taxes. Once paid, homeowner become eligible again (not retroactive)
- Cannabis legalization and taxation

Revenue proposal:

[Support S.7378](#)

- Taxing millionaires and billionaires to pay for adequate school aid and finally fulfill the state's constitutional requirement.

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