

**In December 2020 the Federal Government approved \$4.3 billion in additional aid for K-12 education in New York.**

### Increase in State Aid to Schools

The executive proposal does not increase state aid to schools. Instead, the budget proposal includes a \$1.345 billion cut in state aid to schools.

Schools are expected to receive a total of \$2.1 billion increase funded through the COVID-19 Supplemental Stimulus (the federal relief passed just before the beginning of 2021).

\$5.8 billion Increase to meet all students' needs, their families' and their schools.'

### 2020 Pandemic Adjustment

The proposal restores the \$1.1 bill Pandemic Adjustment cut in state aid to schools in the 2020-2021 state budget.

The state must not make any cuts to its commitment to public schools and backfill them with federal relief dollars as that creates uncertainty of adequate funding, making it more difficult to plan and implement the programming that students need.

### Local District Funding Adjustment

The executive proposal includes a **new cut to state aid, the Local District Funding Adjustment totaling \$1.35 billion.**

This cut is equivalent to the smaller of amount of either a district's STAR payment\* OR their allocation of COVID-19 Supplemental Stimulus (whichever is the smaller amount). This adjustment, if accepted by the legislature, will apply to 2021-22 and for years after (it does not expire).

Even though the COVID-19 Supplemental Stimulus is large enough to address the need that COVID created, there is no guarantee that this funding will be available in years after the pandemic crisis ends. Congress passed this package in order to provide immediate relief. This act does NOT absolve the state from its responsibility to have a stable and sustainable funding stream to fund its obligation to provide "Sound Basic Education" to students in New York.

**Phase-in of Foundation Aid Formula**

**No Phase-In**

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.

The Foundation Aid formula must be fully funded so that the state fulfills the commitment made in the 2007 budget as the statewide legislative settlement of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity. It’s been more than a decade since the commitment was supposed to already be fulfilled. The state needs to provide all the funding now.

**Services Aid- Consolidation of Expense-Based Aids**

The proposal merges 11 existing expense-based aids into a different category of aid called Services Aid.

The executive proposal also implements a cut with the “Services Aid.” This formula is regressive, 98% of the cuts affect high needs districts, with 90 % of the cut made to New York City.

Expense-Based aids should be fully reimbursed for all school districts based on the formulas established in law, which allows districts to plan their expenses and implement responsible budgeting.

The legislature should reject this proposal to consolidate expense base aid and the embedded cut to New York City and other high needs districts.

<p><b>Contract for Excellence</b></p>	<p>The Executive proposal maintains the Contract for Excellence (C4E) for 2021-22. 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.</p>	<p>The Contracts for Excellence is an accountability system that requires the school districts to go through a public process to justify how they will be 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-expanding pre-K</li> <li>-implementing programs for English Language Learners</li> <li>-restructuring the day for middle and high school</li> <li>-decreasing class sizes</li> <li>-increasing time on task</li> <li>-increasing principal and teacher quality</li> <li>-experimental programs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Schools</b></p>	<p><b>No Increase in the Set aside for Community Schools</b></p> <p>Foundation Aid maintains a \$250 million set aside for community schools.</p>	<p>\$100 Million Increase</p> <p>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>The investment in Pre-k is maintained. No expansion in the executive proposal.</p>	<p>The state currently invests \$850 million in pre-K statewide. In 2013, the governor promised pre-K for all, which he has yet to implement.</p> <p>Currently, a minimum of \$775 million is necessary to implement quality pre-K programs for all children that need it, which includes funding for technical assistance centers.</p>

## Charter Schools

The executive budget proposes a temporary reduction to tuition payment to charters by the same amount that state aid is reduced.

The executive also proposes reducing by half the supplemental tuition payments to school districts to help them pay the charter tuition payments.

The executive proposal eliminates the New York City facilities aid which helps alleviate the fiscal impact on New York City public schools as current law mandates that they either provide space for charter schools or pay their rent.

The legislature must ensure that charter schools provide financial transparency of the private funds to which they have access.

Correctly the executive budget proposes to decrease payments in the same rate as public schools.

The legislature must reject the elimination of aid to New York City.

## School District Monitors

Funding Eliminated for Rochester, Hempstead & Wyandanch monitors

\*\$12 Million for academic improvement for Roosevelt School district.

The legislature must provide adequate financial aid to school districts that are facing financial struggles.

## Creating a Positive School Climate

The executive budget includes no increase in funding to the following initiatives:

The executive proposal maintains My Brother's Keeper, a program to improve outcomes for young boys and young men of color, though it allows the State Education Department to transfer a portion of the \$18 million for the program to any other program or fund within SED. The program will use any unexpended funds from prior years

The executive budget maintains the \$3 million provided for restorative justice practices and alternatives discipline and trauma informed education from prior years.

The executive proposal discontinues funding for the \$2 million Safe and Supportive Schools grant and the \$500,000 teacher diversity grant for Buffalo from prior years.

\$50 Million

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.

## Culturally Responsive Education

The executive budget includes no increase in funding to the following initiative:

The executive budget discontinues funding for the \$1 million for the instruction of civic values, diversity history and religious freedom.

**Invest \$50 million so that** 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.

## 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 passed, they will take away some students' rights. **The legislature has rejected this provision every year it was proposed.**

The executive does NOT increase reimbursement rates for preschool special education providers.

To ensure that preschool special education programs stay open and can provide high-quality services, **the State must increase the reimbursement rate by at least 10%.**

To maintain sufficient funding going forward, the State must provide at least the same percentage increase in funding to preschool special education programs as it gives to K-12 public schools each year and to dedicate \$1.25 million to design a new rate-setting methodology, with stakeholder input, to update the way payment is calculated.

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

## Student Welcome Grants

The executive budget includes no increase in funding to the following initiative:

The executive proposal maintains the \$1.5 million for a refugee and immigrant student welcome program.

AQE agrees with the 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, a decrease of \$1.5 million.

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

The executive proposal included \$46 million of repurposed federal dollars (from the Child Care Development Block Grant):  
\$40 million for child care subsidies and  
\$6 million for start-up child care programs in child care deserts.

The executive proposal makes no mention of the \$450 million that the state is receiving in the COVID-19 relief package passed in December.

AQE fully supports the Empire State Campaign for Child Care Asks (AQE is a member)

- Reduce Copays to 10%, a cost of \$70 million
- Increase Uptake by Expanding Eligibility, a cost of \$300 million
- Support for Expulsions and Suspension Ban for our youngest New Yorkers, a cost of \$15 million
- Create a Child Care Workforce Compensation Increase Fund, a cost of \$100 million

The total cost of these investments in child care are \$485 million.

Additionally, the Empire Campaign has created a [plan](#) for the \$450 million relief dollars from the federal government

## Revenues

The executive proposal includes only a temporary surcharge on those who make over \$5 million and then again over \$100 million, resulting in only \$1.5 billion annually. This surcharge will be completely refunded to those who prepay it for three years.

Invest In Our New York Act:

The INVEST IN OUR NEW YORK ACT raises \$50 billion to rebuild New York's economy by ending tax breaks for the richest New Yorkers

Six proposals/bills that aim at taxing high incomes, wealth, and big business.

- **Tax high incomes**

**Bill #1:** Create a progressive income tax system

**Bill #2:** Tax investment income the same as wages

- **Tax wealth**

**Bill #3:** Tax inheritances

**Bill #4:** Mark to Market Tax

- **Tax big business and the financial sector**

**Bill #5:** Small tax on Wall St. financial transactions

**Bill #6:** Offset Trump's corporate tax cuts

For more information on each revenue proposal:

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