



COVID-19 School Impact Questionnaire

Our state, and the entire world, has experienced an unprecedented year. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated all the inequities that pre-existed in every aspect of our lives. The health, social, emotional, and economic impact of the pandemic did not spare our youngest New Yorkers and our public schools. We saw the loss of loved ones, the impacts of isolation, the lack of access to the internet and/or to a device preventing families from connecting with each other, but also students accessing remote learning. Some schools were able to make a seamless transition, with teachers comfortable enough to move from face-to-face to online instruction, using all the technological tools available to them. Other schools had to distribute packets of work as many of their students did not have internet or a computer. Many schools needed to also distribute meals to ensure that students had access to food since they were not attending in person school. All this happened while families had to figure out how they were going to manage remote learning while working from home, losing a job, or being an essential worker.

As we live through this new reality, we continue to see the effects of the decades of chronic underfunding of our schools. Our state has yet to fulfill its commitment to Foundation Aid which was the result of legislative action taken after the Campaign for Fiscal Equity ruling, which affirmed that New York State was violating the New York State constitutional right of all students to a quality education. In 2021, the state continues to owe public schools \$4 billion. The goal of collecting information through this questionnaire is to understand the state of our schools, the issues that were created because of lack of resources, and, those that can be resolved with adequate funding, which in turn translates into adequate staffing, programming, and services.

Please complete this questionnaire by **February 25** and email to marina@aqeny.org. **Please be as descriptive as possible in answering the questions in order to illustrate the needs in your district and your schools. We will need to follow up with you to ensure that we have all the information necessary to show the public how the state is not providing adequate funding for districts to meet ALL their students' needs, especially in this moment of the pandemic. Please do not use any acronyms or abbreviations. Also, please save this document with the name of your district or school, and please type your answers under each question. If you want to share additional documents, please send them with the questionnaire to marina@aqeny.org**

Name of School District:

Name and Contact information of the district official providing the information:

1. What is the greatest challenge facing this district/school? Please describe it in great detail. If it's funding, note what the funding is for.
2. What would be your first priority if your school/ district received more funding?

3. Is your district or school fully, or partially remote in this school year? For all students?
4. How many students have access to high speed internet? How many depended on the school district to provide that?
5. How many students needed the school district to provide a device to access remote learning? How many used their own? Does each student have a device that is only for them or do they have to share with siblings or parents?
6. Do all the educators in your district have access to high speed internet and a device? Did they have to be specifically trained around online instruction? If so, when and how many of them?
7. What difficult decisions has the school/ district had to make due to funding constraints? And, in particular to meet all the COVID safety requirements?
8. What are the specific needs of the students that you needed to address during the pandemic, especially in the social, emotional, academic areas? How did you address them?
9. What do you think is necessary to meet all of your students' needs, starting as early as pre-K in the context we are in in 2021?
10. If funding and resources were not an issue, what is the one program, strategy, or service you would implement?
11. What's at stake in your school/district if NYS refuses to fully fund public schools?
12. What do you plan to do with the new federal dollars that you are slated to receive in 2021? Are there any concerns because the infuse of money comes from the relief package and not from the state in the form of on going aid?