

NEW YORK'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE GETTING OVER \$13 BILLION IN THE COMING YEAR.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The 2021-22 school will kick off with a record high of new resources for students in New York State. This includes \$12 billion in one time funding from the federal stimulus to help students and schools recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. And New York State is investing \$1.4 billion in state funds to education to fully fund the state's Foundation Aid formula in 3 years.

\$1.4 BILLION FOUNDATION AID INCREASE

What is it

A funding increase in the state's basic operating aid for school districts. This funding will be included in the state education budget *year after year*.*

Recommendations

- Class size reduction
- Teacher and principal quality initiatives
- Time on task
- Expansion of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs to full day, restructuring of high schools and middle schools
- Programs for English language learners
- Experimental programs if these programs are supported by research

**This is the first year of an approximately \$4 billion increase by 2023-24, which will bring the total amount of Foundation Aid going to school districts to \$22 billion annually.*

\$12 BILLION FEDERAL AID

What is it

One time funding from the federal stimulus to help students and schools recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes \$4.3 billion approved in December 2020 and an additional \$9 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act approved in March 2021.

Recommendations

- Maximizing space for safer in-person instruction
- Educational technology (this means both devices and online instructional material)
- Addressing students' needs stemming from not being in the classroom in person for almost two academic years including learning loss experiences by low income students, students with disabilities, English Language Learners and students who experience homelessness
- Social, emotional, mental health and academic needs of students
- Summer programs, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs
- Early childhood education

STEP 1 HELP US IDENTIFY LOCAL ISSUES



What are the top priorities of the parents, community members, educators and students in your local community for how your school district will spend this new funding?

[Click here to view access a survey](#) and circulate it among community members to help us determine what to prioritize when advocating for funding.

Survey must be completed by April 30th. We will share results with respondents by May 7th.

STEP 2 TAKE ACTION

Based on survey results from your district, share those demands with your local school district's decision makers.

Who and how to do that depends on whether you live inside or outside New York City: outside New York City, decisions are made by *superintendents* and elected *school board members*, and *school board meetings* are open to the public. Within New York City, decisions are made by the *Mayor, City Council and DOE Chancellor*, and *Community Education Council* meetings are open to the public.



MEET WITH YOUR SUPERINTENDENT & CFO

Use this [sample letter](#) to request a meeting with your superintendent or the Chancellor and DOE.

Find other parents who can attend with you, and prepare a list of questions to ask during the meeting.

The district superintendent is typically listed on the front page of a district's website with contact information.



ATTEND LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD OR CEC MEETINGS

At every school board meeting or Community Education Council meeting, there is a section for public comment. This typically requires advance registration either via writing your name down if attending the meeting in person, or via email.

Check your local school district website to find the date of the next meeting.



ORGANIZE A TOWN HALL OR PTA MEETING

Use these [step-by-step instructions](#) to organize a town hall or PTA meeting.

You can also ask participants to email or call your local school board members or the Chancellor of the NYC Department of Education. Their contact information is available on your local district website.

STEP 3 BUILD PUBLIC SUPPORT

[Write an op-ed](#) in your local newspaper about how you and your community want this funding to be spent.

[Organize a press conference](#) to bring attention to the issues in your local community.

CONNECT WITH US

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