

New York State 2025-26 Executive Proposal for Public Education & Child Care

Foundation Aid

	Executive Proposal	AQE Priorities	Recommendation to the Senate & Assembly
Total Proposed School Aid Increase	\$1.6 billion increase	AQE supports the increase of \$2 billion as the State Aid Proposal of the Board of Regents recommends.	
Foundation Aid	\$1.4 billion increase as expected under current law	\$1.4 billion increase in Foundation Aid to meet current legal requirements.	
Foundation Aid Formula and Aid Changes	<p>The executive budget includes changes in the poverty measures used in the Foundation Aid formula. These changes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• replacing Free and Reduced Price lunch with Economically Disadvantaged data• replacing Census Poverty data with Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates <p>The executive also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• increased the maximum state sharing ratio from 91% to 93%• providing a minimum year-to-year increase of 2.0 percent for all school districts	<p>The Foundation Aid formula needs to be updated to reflect up-to-date poverty and student need data from school districts statewide.</p> <p>However, such changes must be evaluated regarding the impact they may have on certain school districts. Other measures need to be considered to accurately reflect student need.</p> <p>The executive did not include changes to the regional cost index, changes that accurately categorize school districts to reflect the cost of doing business and pay people accordingly.</p> <p>The change to RCI is absolutely necessary</p>	

Other public education

	Executive Proposal	AQE Priorities	Recommendation to the Senate & Assembly
Community Schools	No separate funding for community schools. This maintains the \$250 million set aside within the Foundation Aid formula.	Community schools funding must be increased	

Pre-K	<p>\$143 million for the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program. This is a continuation of the funding provided in the enacted budget for FY 2025 using funding that was unused.</p>	<p>The State Aid proposal of the Board of Regents recommends \$25 million to update to the per child rate to ensure that early adopters are not locked into a lower rate</p> <p>Focus on increasing rates for school districts that were early adopters of Universal Pre-K who continue to have programs that have to fund from local tax revenue. Currently, some school districts continue to receive \$5,400 from the state per child for full-day pre-K, an amount that is inadequate to cover the cost of any quality program. In addition, school districts that contract with community-based organizations to administer the pre-K program, do not provide an adequate amount for teachers to be paid a thriving wage, condemning the teachers that work for these CBOs to wages that do not cover the basics.</p>
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Child care

	Executive Proposal	AQE Priorities	Recommendation to the Senate & Assembly
Total Investment	<p>The executive budget allocates \$100 million for creating new child care centers to increase capacity and \$10 million of federal funding for renovations for family based programs .</p> <p>The executive budget allocates \$1 million to create the NY Child Care Coalition. The coalition will research revenue generating ideas to fund future child care spending.</p>	<p>Invest \$1.6 billion in the child care system to increase compensation of the workforce and expand access to all families.</p>	

Support for the early childhood workforce	The executive budget proposes no new funding for the child care workforce in the form of supplemental wages or continuing the workforce retention grants.	Create a permanent state child care fund to increase child care worker compensation. This fund should be robustly resourced and sufficient to offer all child care workers compensation parity with similar positions in the public school system. All members of the child care workforce who work in licensed, regulated programs should be eligible to receive compensation supplements from this fund (\$1.2 billion)
Access for all families	The executive budget proposes no new funding for the subsidy program in terms of eligibility or expansion of eligibility to include all children regardless of immigration status	<p>Ensure ALL New Yorkers can access child care, starting with guaranteeing child care assistance (CCAP) to eligible low-income New Yorkers (\$400 million).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make child care a state-funded entitlement for eligible families making less than 250% of the federal poverty threshold, including for families where the parent/caretaker(s) earn less, on average, than minimum wage.• Increase state funding for the Child Care Assistance Program by \$300 million to account for growth in CCAP enrollment• End New York’s rule of tying CCAP to parent/ caretakers’ exact hours of work (\$70 million)
Barriers for families and providers	The executive budget proposes no new funding for enhancing reimbursement rates for providers who serve students with special needs.	<p>Help eliminate barriers to accessing child care for children with developmental delays and disabilities (\$5 million).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the enhanced rates for children with special needs to 130% of the market rate (up from 115%) and take steps to make it easier for child care programs to receive the enhanced rate.