

New York State 2025-26 Enacted Budget for Public Education

| | Enacted Budget | AQE Priorities | Executive Proposal | Senate Proposal | Assembly Proposal |
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| Total Proposed School Aid Increase | \$1.7 billion total school aid increase since the last enacted budget FY25 (\$50 million above the executive proposal) | AQE supports the increase of \$2 billion as the State Aid Proposal of the Board of Regents recommends. | \$1.6 billion increase | The Senate proposal adds another \$1.2 billion to the education budget. | \$1.1 billion over the Executive and \$2.7 billion over School Year (SY) 2024-25. |
| Foundation Aid | \$1.4 billion increase in foundation aid. | \$1.4 billion increase in Foundation Aid to meet current legal requirements. | \$1.4 billion increase as expected under current law | Adds another \$680 million to Foundation Aid. | The Assembly includes a \$569 million increase to Foundation Aid over the Executive, which would be a \$2 billion increase over SY 2024-25. |
| Foundation Aid Formula and Aid Changes, other aids | <p>The enacted budget includes the changes proposed in the executive budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">replacing Free and Reduced Price lunch with Economically Disadvantaged datareplacing Census Poverty data with Small Area Income and Poverty Estimatesincreased 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>No change to the Regional Cost Index (RCI), except for Westchester county (which was part of the Hudson Valley value of 1.314) is increased to 1.351</p> | <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 (RCI), 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> | <p>The executive budget includes changes in the poverty measures used in the Foundation Aid formula.</p> <p>These changes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">replacing Free and Reduced Price lunch with Economically Disadvantaged datareplacing 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>Changes the Regional Cost Index to increase the value for NYC/Long Island and Hudson Valley to drive more funding to those school districts.</p> <p>Provides a minimum increase of 3% to all school districts.</p> <p>Charter schools \$85.6 million to make New York City eligible for Charter School Transitional Aid</p> <p>\$58.6 million for additional aid for school districts with large charter school enrollments.</p> <p>\$54 million to expand 30% farm to school reimbursement to include breakfast and snacks.</p> | <p>The Assembly updates the Regional Cost Index (RCI) to be the greater of the 2006 Index or the 2024 updated values for each region;</p> <p>The Assembly also increases the English Language Learner Factor of the Pupil Needs Index from 0.5 to 0.65; lowers the Income Wealth Index floor from 0.65 to 0 over three years; and provides a 2.9 percent minimum increase to Foundation Aid.</p> |

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| Foundation Aid Formula and Aid Changes, other aids (cont.) | English Language Learner weighting increase from 0.5 to .53 |
| | Increases for Career and Tech education services, BOCES and special services |
| | Additional Charter school transitional aid for three school districts with charter school enrollment over 20% (increased amount for proportion of enrollment above that threshold) |

Other public education

| | Enacted Budget | AQE Priorities | Executive Proposal | Senate Proposal | Assembly Proposal |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------|
| Community Schools | No new funding for community schools | Community schools funding must be increased | No separate funding for community schools. This maintains the \$250 million set aside within the Foundation Aid formula. | \$105 million for Community Schools via the Community Schools Act. | |

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| Pre-K | No new funding or rate adjustments for pre-K | <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> | \$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>The Senate proposal expands the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program by increasing the per-pupil minimum to \$6,700 per child, and expanding the number of seats allocated to districts.</p> | <p>The Assembly proposal adds \$302.4 million used to increase the minimum per pupil funding distributed via formula from \$5,400 to \$10,000 per pupil;</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> | | <p>Allocates \$150 million to expand Universal Pre-K.</p> | <p>Adds another \$25 million to the Statewide Full Day Pre-K program (Which funds every slot at \$10,000)</p> |
| East Ramapo Governance | | | | <p>The Senate adds the funding necessary to continue the work of the monitor for East Ramapo</p> | |

Child care

| | Enacted Budget | AQE Priorities | Executive Proposal | Senate Proposal | Assembly Proposal |
|---|--|--|--|--|-------------------|
| Total Investment | <p>The enacted 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 enacted 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> | <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> | | |
| Support for the early childhood workforce | <p>No new funding</p> | <p>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)</p> | <p>The executive budget proposes no new funding for the child care workforce in the form of supplemental wages or continuing the workforce retention grants.</p> | <p>The Senate proposal adds \$500 million for another round of funding for the Workforce Retention Grant program to provide child care employees with an annual salary enhancement.</p> <p>\$25 million in additional support to increase the availability of child care during non-traditional hours.</p> <p>\$25 million in additional support to expand access to childcare for eligible families regardless of the caretaker's work hours - related to ELFA Part GG.</p> | |

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| Support for the early childhood workforce (cont.) | | | | The Senate would modify the Executive budget and require the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies to hire a Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging officer within the seven OCFS regions. The Agencies would be recommended to rename the position. | |
| Access for all families | <p>\$400 million increase to the Child Care Assistance Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$50 million for the rest of the State• Up to \$350 million for NYC, which is a 50/50 match<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NYC takes priority, but other places can request this funding if NYC isn't successful in using the funding. | <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) | 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 | Elimination of minimum earnings requirement | <p>Increase of \$215 m for the child care assistance program</p> <p>Elimination of minimum earnings requirement</p> <p>Requires the use of a cost estimation model by OCFS to determine the true cost of care</p> |

Barriers for families and providers

Help eliminate barriers to accessing child care for children with developmental delays and disabilities (\$5 million).

- 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.

The executive budget proposes no new funding for enhancing reimbursement rates for providers who serve students with special needs.