

# New York State 2026-27 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 billion as the State Aid Proposal of the Board of Regents recommends.	
Foundation Aid	\$779.5 million increase as expected under current law	\$ increase in Foundation Aid to meet current legal requirements	
Foundation Aid Formula and Aid Changes	The executive budget includes no changes to the Foundation Aid formula. The executive also provides a minimum year-to-year increase of 1.0 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>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>Adding a weight for students experiencing homelessness or housing instability and an increase in the weight for English Language Learners.</p>	<p>The limited changes to the formula included in the final NYS Fiscal Year 2026 budget resulted in some districts, including New York City, receiving less funding they would have received had the State made no changes to the formula at all.</p> <p>The increase to the RCI and the changes to the weightings are absolutely necessary this year to help correct this shortfall and more accurately reflect the cost of meeting students’ needs today.</p>

Other public education

	Executive Proposal	AQE Priorities	Recommendation to the Senate & Assembly
Community Schools	No change or additional investments	Community schools funding must be increased by \$100 million	
Pre-K	<p>The executive budget adds \$561 million in pre-k services across the state. The \$561m will be put towards: increasing rates to \$10,000 or selected Foundation Aid per pupil, whichever is more, for all school districts for all 4 year-olds across the state, an increase of \$431 million.</p> <p>Directs \$205 million (of the 431m) to New York City's 3K program to fill in gaps for universal access.</p>	<p>Raise every school district's per pupil rate to \$10,000 or index it to each district's K-12 Foundation Aid rate, so that funding automatically keeps pace with costs and inflation in high- and average-needs districts.</p> <p>Require a minimum local contribution by wealthy districts.</p> <p>For more information click <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p>	The executive proposal for pre-K statewide must be included in the enacted budget

New York State Child Care for All

	Executive Proposal	AQE Priorities	Recommendation to the Senate & Assembly
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.	<b>Invest \$1.2 billion in Workforce Compensation:</b>  Create a permanent workforce compensation fund as the bill carried by Senator Brisport and Assemblymember Hevesi outlines (S.5533/A.492-A). Increase compensation for every member of the child care workforce so they can remain in this critical profession. This is an issue of racial, economic, gender, and immigrant justice, as most child care educators are women of color and immigrants, yet they are paid poverty wages despite their essential work.	Without investment in the child care workforce <u>this year</u> , the path to universal child care will not be paved with a solid foundation and families will still not be able to access child care, despite the Governor’s proposals to increase funding, because there are not enough educators to staff programs to enroll more children.  The one house proposals should build upon the Governor’s strong child care proposals by providing ongoing and reliable compensation supplements to all members of the child care workforce until New York has achieved statewide universal child care that pays providers adequate rates to pay the workforce a thriving wage. (\$1.2B)

<b>Access for all families</b>	<p>The executive budget allocates \$1.2 billion to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) which provides subsidies to all eligible families with children 0-13 across the state. This addition is estimated to clear the waiting lists statewide.</p> <p>Allocates \$60 million to a pilot program for Dutchess, Monroe, and Broome counties to jointly provide universal child care.</p> <p>Provides \$73 million to begin a 2-Care program in select high need neighborhoods in New York city to serve 2,000 additional children.</p>	<p><b>Support the state’s Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) with a \$2.3 billion increase:</b></p> <p>Increase state funding for the CCAP to address growing enrollment and prevent service gaps, especially in counties facing funding crises. Currently, 30 counties statewide are facing shortfalls</p> <p><b>Bridge to Universal child care (\$150 million):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. In communities with a high percentage of low income families, the state should apply the community eligibility standards to access CCAP, in the same way that they replaced Free and Reduced priced lunch.</li><li>2. Cap the copayments of families with income over the threshold</li></ol>
<b>Barriers for families and providers</b>	<p>The executive budget proposes no new funding for enhancing reimbursement rates for providers who serve students with special needs</p>	
<b>Other Investments</b>	<p>Allocates \$1.5 million for the creation of the Office of Child Care and Early Education. The new office will coordinate the implementation of universal child care, continued investments in 3K, the launch of 2-Care, and workforce supports.</p>	