

Talking Points: Funding Our Schools

- **Voice the need to:**
 - **Eliminate the remaining \$1 billion Gap Elimination Adjustment** first imposed in 2010 by no later than the 2016-17 school year
 - **Accelerate phase-in of \$4.7 billion in foundation aid** that was originally scheduled for completion in 2011
 - **Adopt sensible adjustments to the property tax cap** including elimination of the current requirement of a 60% super majority vote to exceed the 2% cap
- **Object and reject:**
 - **Education Tax Credit proposals** whose public cost would divert funds from traditional public education and place funding decisions in the hands of individuals and corporations rather than publically elected and appointed officials
 - **Proposals to increase numbers of charter schools** until outstanding commitments to adequately fund traditional public schools have been met and until existing charters have clearly demonstrated the public value of State and local investment in their operations
- **Implement and honor 2014 commitments to:**
 - **Expand pre-kindergarten** programs statewide
 - **Fund the Regents agenda** to establish new and creative pathways to high school graduation
- **Consider and address** supporting a growing population of **English Language Learners** by fully funding mandates associated with part 154 of NYS Commissioner's Regulations and reinstating funding once made available through Limited English Proficiency (LEP) aid.
- **Expedite the reinstatement of current year growth aid** to recognize the obligation for school districts to address unanticipated enrollment spikes, often the result of unaccompanied minors seeking to escape intolerable conditions in their home countries.