



UPDATED Preliminary Executive Budget Analysis

EDUCATION ISSUES

School Aid

The 2017-18 Executive Budget allocates \$428 million as an increase in Foundation Aid and \$333 million for expenses based aids, and \$150 million in unallocated school aid through the Fiscal Stabilization Fund, amongst other allocations:

- \$428 million as an increase in Foundation Aid, with a \$50 million community schools set-aside within the Foundation Aid increase
- \$333 million for expense based aids, which represent full funding of expense based aids
- \$150 million for a “Fiscal Stabilization Fund”
- \$35 million for the “Empire State After-School Program”
- \$5 million to expand pre-kindergarten for three and four-year olds
- \$5.3 million to expand Early College High Schools
- \$5 million in other education initiatives

This would amount to an education spending increase of \$961 million or 3.9%. The total proposed state spending for education would equal \$25.605 billion.

Two additional items would be outside the school aid allocation:

- \$22 million for Charter School Tuition Reimbursement
- \$17 million for Smart Schools Debt Services

These additions would bring the education increase to \$1 billion.

School aid runs are now available here (NOTE: the \$150 million fiscal stabilization fund is NOT reflected on the aid runs).

<https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/executive/eBudget1718/fy18localities/schoolaid/1718schoolruns.pdf>

Changes to Foundation Aid

The Executive Budget makes significant changes to the way Foundation Aid is calculated and would repeal the current formula. School Districts would receive the same amount of school aid they received in the 2016-17 school year, then an increase reflecting pupil need, local share and a regional cost index. There is a built in 1% minimum increase.

Also, Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL) data as used for school aid calculations would be replaced with data from the latest Census on the amount of children living in poverty.

Fiscal Stabilization Fund

There is \$150 million for unallocated school aid, which will be split amongst school districts and is NOT reflected on the school aid runs.

Community Schools

There is a \$50 million set aside included in the Foundation Aid increase. Certain school districts would be required to spend a certain portion of their foundation aid on “transformation of high-need schools into community hubs.” This would be targeted towards struggling and persistently struggling schools and schools with high populations of English Language Learners.

After School Care

There is a \$35 million allocation to fund the Empire State After-School Program. This increase is purported to create an additional 22,000 seats for students in after-school programs in the state’s 16 Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative areas.

Pre-Kindergarten

There is a consolidation of pre-kindergarten funding programs and a \$5 million increase in prekindergarten to expand programming for three and four year olds. There is also continuation of the \$5 million for implementation of the QUALITYstarsNY program.

Early College High Schools

There is a \$5.3 million increase in funding to expand early college high schools programs. The expansion is specifically for schools to focus on computer science programs.

Charter Schools

There is a new tier of Charter School Transitional Aid to assist districts with making payments to charters, funded at \$22 million.

The charter cap is kept as its current level under this proposal, however the NYC cap is eliminated.

The Executive Budget would increase support for new or expanding charter schools in New York City and updates the charter facilities calculation rate in New York City.

Charter school tuition is unfrozen.

Special Education Waivers

The Executive Budget allows for school districts to apply for waivers from certain special education laws and regulations.

Non-Public Schools

There is a non-public school aid increase of 3.9% for state-mandated activities.

The Executive Budget also continues the two-year \$60 million appropriation for back payments for the Comprehensive Attendance Policy.

Advanced Placement Test Assistance

There is \$2 million to fund AP exam costs for 68,000 low-income students.

Mayoral Control in NYC

Mayoral control of schools in New York City is extended three years – until June 30, 2020.

Teacher Programs

The Master Teachers Program is continued, and \$2 million is allocated to fund an additional cohort of 115 master teachers. This cohort is specially designed towards teachers in computer science.

The Empire State Excellence in teaching Awards is continued, and \$400,000 is allocated to fund a second round of awards for at least 60 teachers.

Cyberbullying

There is \$300,000 allocated to “combat and prevent cyberbullying.” Funds will be used for school-based strategies, professional development for school counselors and school-based public awareness campaigns.

Career and Technical Education

The proposal to increase the aidable salary for BOCES educators and to increase special services aid to the Big 5 School Districts was not included in the Executive Budget.

Education Incentives Investment Tax Credit

This back-door voucher proposal is NOT included in the Executive Budget.

State Education Department Inspector General

The Executive Budget creates a new Inspector general to “oversee and investigate allegations of corruption, fraud, criminal activity, conflicts of interest, or abuse, by any person within the State Education Department.” The Inspector General would be appointed by the Assembly and Senate.

Homeless Students

The Executive Budget proposed changes to remove certain children awaiting foster care from the definition of homeless.

Rights of a homeless or temporary housing student are expanded and the definition of the “school district of origin” is expanded.

The Executive Budget proposes that placement decisions of homeless or temporary housing students must be made in “the best interest” of the child.

The Executive Budget also proposes language to provide Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs added flexibility, doubles the allowable length of stay in short-term crisis programs to 120 days and extends long-term programs from 18 to 24 months. The proposal also increases the maximum age for youth in long-term programs to 24 years old.

HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES

Excelsior Scholarships

The Executive Budget proposes making SUNY and CUNY tuition-free for certain children from certain middle class families. Free tuition would be immediate for students of families making up to \$100,000 annually, phased in over the next two years to \$125,000 annually. To qualify for the funding, the student must be “on track to complete their degree in only two or four years.” Once phased in, the program cost is estimated to be \$163 million per year.

Dream Act

The Executive Budget includes language to enact the Dream Act, which will allow undocumented students access to the state’s Tuition Assistance Program and other State-administered scholarships.

Tuition Plan for SUNY and CUNY

The Executive Budget includes language to limit increases in the resident tuition rate at SUNY and CUNY to no more than \$250 a year for the next five years.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY ISSUES

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

The Executive Budget increases the New York State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by more than doubling the credit for families earning between \$60,000 and \$150,000. This credit provides families who qualified for the Federal Child and Dependent Care Credit the ability to claim a percentage of the federal credit also on their state income taxes.

New York Youth Jobs Program

There is a \$50 million increase over the next five years in the previously named Urban Youth Jobs Program. The original target areas under this program included Albany, Brookhaven, Buffalo, Hempstead, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, New York City, Rochester, Schenectady, Syracuse, Utica, White Plains, and Yonkers and then separate funding for youth outside these areas.

Summer Youth Employment Program

There is a \$5 million increase in the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Maintain Child Care Funding

There is \$806 million allocated to maintain current levels of child care subsidies necessary under the Federal Child Care Block Grant Development Act of 2014.

Raise the Age/Juvenile Justice

The Executive Budget includes legislation to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 17 on January 1, 2019 and to age 18 on January 1, 2020.

ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND WELFARE ISSUES

Regulate and Tax Electronic Cigarettes

The Executive Budget requires the regulation of electronic cigarettes in the “same manner as tobacco products” and includes like products in the Clean Indoor Air Act.

Clean Water Infrastructure Act

The Executive Budget allocates \$2 billion for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act to be funded at \$400 million per year over five years. This capital funding will be used to “improve municipal drinking water distribution and filtration systems, replace lead service lines, improve wastewater treatment infrastructure, make strategic open space and farmland protection investments, expedite the cleanup of hazardous waste that may impact drinking water, and support green infrastructure.”

Test and Monitor Drinking Water

The Executive Budget mandates that “every public water system is required to test drinking water for the presence of emerging contaminants once every three years” and also requires the testing of private wells before a residential sale and once every five years for wells that are on leased property. All test results must be reported to the Department of Health.

Locally Sourced Food in Schools

The Executive Budget allocates \$750,000 available to the Farm-to-School Grant Program, an increase of \$500,000 from the previous enacted budget. This funding will be used for up to 15 new programs to allow schools to buy local produce.

The Executive Budget also includes an increase from \$116,000 to \$416,000 for the New York Agriculture in the Classroom Program.

HIV/AIDS Funding

The Executive Budget includes \$200 million to continue to support legislation signed in 2016 which “eliminates barriers to HIV testing, increases STD screening and access to treatment, and furthers HIV/AIDS research.”

Heroin and Opioid Epidemic

There is a \$30 million increase (\$200 million allocated) to combat the Heroin Epidemic in New York. This funding will enable OASAS to implement the following initiatives:

- The State will add 80 new residential beds run by not-for-profit providers
- The State will open 600 additional Opioid Treatment Program slots
- Funding for 10 new regional coalitions and partnerships
- Funding to add an additional 10 navigator programs, for a total of 20 statewide
- Funding to add an additional 10 peer engagement programs, for a total of 20 statewide

Adolescent Clubhouses

There is funding for the support of eight new clubhouses for youth, for a total of 15 statewide. This program serves youth who are in recovery.

Recovery High Schools

The Executive Budget includes language to establish two pilot programs for Recovery High Schools, schools within a school to help students in substance abuse recover.