

New York State

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Leading the Way



There is no greater investment than the future of our children. ALL students deserve high quality programs and services in EVERY school to allow them to seek a positive pathway to career, college and good citizenship.

While the 2017-18 Executive Budget allocates \$428 million as an increase in Foundation Aid, \$333 million for expenses based aid and \$150 million in unallocated school aid through the Fiscal Stabilization Fund, which is a good starting point for negotiations, we are concerned that this is well short of the \$2 billion school aid increase called for by NYS PTA.

Support a \$2 Billion Investment in Our Children

NYS PTA calls for a \$2.0 billion school aid increase, to include:

- \$1.5 billion to continue current school services and
- \$500 million to address priorities including (1) support for struggling schools, (2) support for English Language Learners, (3) expansion of college and career pathways and Career and Technical Education programs, (4) pre-K expansion, (5) teacher professional development, and (6) support for school districts with growing enrollment.

NYS PTA also advocates funding support for:

- Implementing a three-year full phase-in of Foundation Aid;
- Improved school aid formula weights related to poverty, disabilities, English Language Learners, enrollment growth and geographic sparseness;
- ALL schools to convert to a community school model and continued support for our struggling schools;
- After-school increases, including the Empire State After-School Program;
- Pre-K expansion and streamlining payments and services;
- Expansion of Early College High School programs;
- Career and Technical Education expansion at BOCES and the Big Five City School Districts, and enactment of A.2363 (Nolan)/S.3919 (Richie);
- Increased fiscal and programmatic support for English Language Learners, students with disabilities and homeless students, including a review of Part 154 regulation implementation; and
- Continued commitment to families and family engagement.

NYS PTA has concern and opposition to:

- The tax cap and its effect on school programs and services;
- Changes to school aid formulas which eliminate the ability for school districts to plan for future school aid calculations;
- Language that allows mid-year cuts outside the standard state budget process;
- Changes to and the weakening of rules governing NYC charter schools, especially until real meaningful charter school accountability and transparency legislation is enacted; and
- Waivers from special education laws and regulations.

For more information, please contact Kyle McCauley Belokopitsky, Esq., NYS PTA Executive Director at execdirector@nyspta.org, 518-452-8808