



2018-19 Preliminary Executive Budget Analysis

EDUCATION ISSUES

School Aid

The 2018-19 Executive Budget allocates \$338 million as an increase in Foundation Aid, \$317 million for expense based aids, and \$64 million in unallocated school aid through the Fiscal Stabilization Fund, amongst other allocations:

- \$338 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
- \$64 million for a “Fiscal Stabilization Fund”
- \$10 million for the “Empire State After-School Program”
- \$15 million to expand pre-kindergarten for three and four-year olds
- \$9 million to expand Early College High Schools
- \$6 million for Smart Start
- \$5 million for Breakfast After the Bell
- \$2.5 million for expanded access to advanced placement
- \$2.5 million in other education initiatives

This amounts to an education spending increase of \$769 million or 3.0%. 70% of the school aid increase is designated for high-need school districts. This increase brings state education spending to \$26.356 billion.

School aid runs are now available here (NOTE: the \$64 million fiscal stabilization fund is NOT reflected on the aid runs). <https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy19/exec/fy19local/school/1819schoolruns.pdf>

Cap on Expense Based Aids

The proposal includes legislation to cap growth in “major expense-based aid categories” to 2% beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Fiscal Stabilization Fund

There is \$64 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. This will be targeted towards struggling and persistently struggling schools, schools with growing homeless populations, and schools with high populations of English Language Learners. Note - this is the second year the Governor included this \$50 million set-aside. Further, the proposal increases the minimum community schools funding amount from \$10,000 to \$75,000.

After School Care

There is a \$10 million allocation to fund the Empire State After-School Program. This increase is purported to create an additional 6,250 seats for students in after-school programs in high-need communities. Further, \$2 million of this allocation will be targeted to vulnerable and at-risk communities to deter gang activity.

Pre-Kindergarten

The proposal includes a \$15 million increase in prekindergarten to expand programming for three and four year olds. Preference for funding will be given to “the few remaining high-need school districts currently without a prekindergarten program and will focus on including students in integrated or community-based settings.” There is also continuation of the \$5 million for implementation of the QUALITYstarsNY program.

Full-Day Kindergarten Conversion

Budget legislation includes proposals to provide additional full-day kindergarten conversion aid, to “incentivize the last few school districts ... with half-day programs to establish full-day programs in the 2018-19 school year.”

Early College High Schools

There is a \$9 million increase in funding to expand early college high school programs. These funds will be targeted to communities with low graduation or college access rates.

Smart Start

The Executive Budget creates a new program, Smart Start, with a \$6 million allocation to expand computer science and engineering education. Smart Start grants will provide teachers with resources and professional development, and schools which receive a grant award will work with their Regional Economic Development Councils. Further, legislation is included which would enable a work group to create computer science standards to be available for any school to use.

No Student Goes Hungry

Several new proposals were included in the Executive Budget to expand access to food for children:

Breakfast After the Bell – schools with more than 70 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch will be required to provide breakfast after the school day has begun, either breakfast in the classroom, extended cafeteria hours, and/or food kiosks and vending machines that dispense healthy breakfasts. \$7 million in capital

funds will be available for equipment and \$5 million will be available for reimbursement to schools for costs of increase numbers of meals served.

Ban Lunch Shaming – legislation was included to ban lunch shaming practices in schools. Schools would be prohibited from serving an alternative lunch to children who cannot pay. Schools would be required to submit a plan to notify caregivers of low balances, ways to communicate and support enrollment in free or reduced price meal programs.

Farm to School Program – doubles the existing Farm to School grant program from \$750,000 to \$1.5 million.

Farm-fresh, locally grown foods at schools – increases reimbursement for schools from \$0.06 per meal to \$0.25 per meal for any district that purchases at least 30 percent of its food from NY farmers.

Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Access

The proposal includes an additional \$2 million to subsidize AP and IB exams for low-income students, and \$500,000 in grants for technical assistance for districts that would like to provide advanced courses but do not currently.

Charter Schools

Charter school tuition is increased 3%, and the proposal updates the charter facilities aid calculation in New York City.

Non-Public Schools

There is a non-public school aid increase of 3% for state-mandated activities.

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

The proposal also includes a \$5 million reimbursement program for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) instruction.

Summer School Special Education Programs

The proposal changes the reimbursement to school districts for summer school special education tuition costs, aligning it with the wealth-equalized aid ratio used to reimburse districts for other similar programs during the school year.

Teacher Programs

The Master Teachers Program is continued, and \$1 million is allocated to fund an additional cohort of master teachers in high-needs districts.

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

Gang Prevention

A new \$1.5 million is allocated over three years to a Gang Prevention Education Program to “support gang retention and resistance initiatives for middle and high school students in at-risk communities.”

School Mental Health

The Executive Budget includes a new \$250,000 to “create enhanced mental health support grants for community schools.”

Recovery High Schools

The proposal authorizes BOCES non-component school districts, including the Big Five City School Districts, to participate in recovery high schools.

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.

HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES

Excelsior Scholarships

The Executive Budget includes funding to expand Excelsior Scholarships to families making up to \$110,000 annually.

Student Loan Debt

The proposal creates a Student Loan Ombudsman at the Department of Financial Services, requires all colleges to annually provide data on their student loans, prohibits predatory practices or borrowers, and prohibits the suspension of professional licenses if the individual is behind or defaulted on a student loan.

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 like Excelsior.

Food Pantries on Campuses

The proposal requires SUNY and CUNY campuses to either provide physical food pantries or enable students to receive food through a different “stigma-free” arrangement.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY ISSUES

New York Youth Jobs Program

To expand the use of this program, the proposal increases the tax credit for business that employ youth under this initiative by 50%.

Summer Youth Employment Program

There is a \$4 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 \$100 million for state and local costs to implement the new raise the age laws, including programs such as comprehensive diversion, probation, and other services for 16 and 17 year olds in the juvenile justice system.

ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND WELFARE ISSUES

First 1,000 Days of Life

The proposal developed a new initiative which will “expand access to services and improve health outcomes for children covered by Medicaid and their families.”

HIV/AIDS Funding

The Executive Budget continues to include \$200 million to support ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York.

Lead Paint

The Executive Budget implements measures to help reduce the risk of child exposure to lead paint, requiring municipalities to report on inspections and remediation in high risk areas and requiring local code enforcement officers to inspect residential rental property to assess for violations.

Tax Electronic Cigarettes

The Executive Budget imposes an excise tax of 10 cents per fluid milliliter on vapor products at the distributor level.

Heroin and Opioid Epidemic

The Executive Budget implements an Opioid Epidemic Surcharge on manufacturers. The \$0.02 per morphine milligram will be placed on every first sale of opioid in NYS, and expected to generate \$125 million to support prevention and treatment efforts.

There is a \$26 million increase (4.5%) in operating and capital support for OASAS for prevention, treatment and recovery programs, residential services and public awareness and education.

Adolescent Clubhouses

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