

New York State

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

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## Leading the Way



From outstanding arts and music programs, to broader pathways to graduation, to increases in community schools and supports for our ELLs and students with disabilities – New York’s children, educators and schools continue to succeed.

However, challenges are real, too. According to the latest NYS School Report Card, 55% of our students are economically disadvantaged, and more than 50% qualify for free or reduced priced lunch.

Children’s needs don’t disappear from year to year, and we cannot fund schools as if they do.

While 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, we are concerned that this is far 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 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 supports:**

- A full phase-in of Foundation Aid – \$4.2 billion is still owed to our children, with \$3.03 billion due to high-needs schools and students;
- Revision of the school aid formula related to poverty, disabilities, English Language Learners, enrollment growth and geographic sparseness;
- The ability for ALL schools to convert to a community school model of learning;
- Full-day Kindergarten Conversion Aid, so all public schools have full-day kindergarten;
- Pre-K and after-school support, including transportation;
- Increased programmatic and funding for mental health services for students;
- Career and Technical Education, Early College High Schools, advanced coursework and International Baccalaureate access and expansion;
- English Language Learners, students with disabilities and homeless students;
- A commitment to increase family engagement initiatives in ALL schools;
- The No Child Goes Hungry initiatives; and
- Expansion of Recovery High Schools and Adolescent Clubhouses.

### **NYS PTA has concern and opposition to:**

- The cap on expense-based aids;
- The proposal for state approval of local school district budgeting plans;
- The tax cap and its effect on school programs and services;
- Language that allows mid-year cuts outside the standard state budget process;
- Changes to and the weakening of rules governing charter schools, especially until real meaningful charter school accountability and transparency legislation is enacted; and
- Waivers from special education laws and regulations.

Together, we can make every child’s potential a reality. No other work is more important.

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