

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE BOARD

Recommendations for the 2022 Legislative Session | Feb. 18, 2022



Representing New York's parents, classroom teachers, school-related professionals, school building and program administrators, superintendents and school board members

Today's Agenda

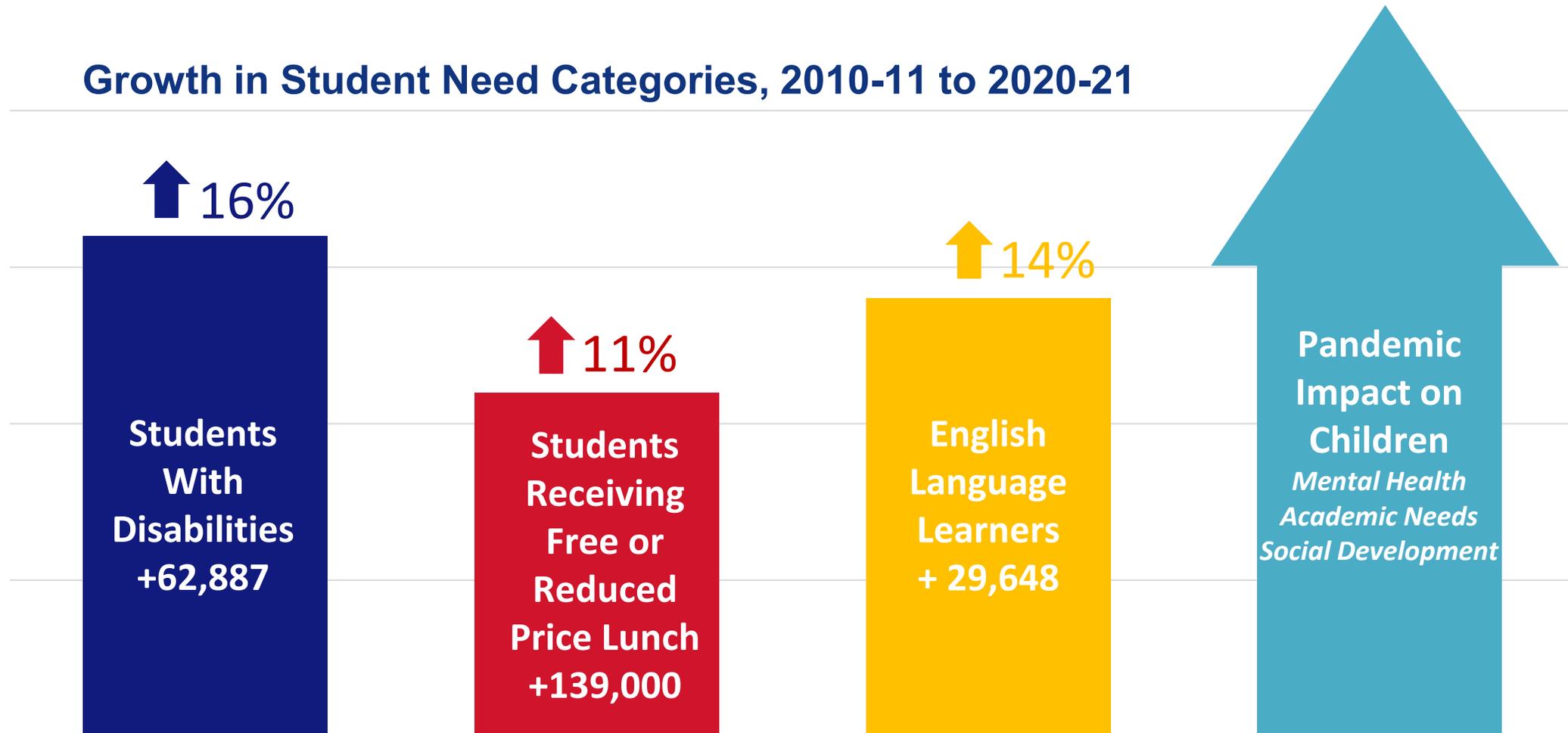
Meeting Student Needs, Expanding Opportunities in Extraordinary Times



State Aid & School Finance

Our Collective Challenge: Meeting Growing Student Needs

Growth in Student Need Categories, 2010-11 to 2020-21



Executive Budget: Significant Progress on State Aid

Overall State Aid for 2022-23 is \$31.05 billion

- Increase of \$2.06 billion (7.1%) over 2021-22
- Continues Foundation Aid phase-in
 - \$1.6 billion increase
- Expense-based aids: Fully funded with no changes
 - \$471 million increase

Foundation Aid

- Executive Budget funds the second of the three-year phase-in plan agreed to in the FY2022 state budget.
 - Consistent with the NYSER settlement, districts will receive 50% of Foundation Aid still due for 2022-23.
 - Remaining amount would be provided for 2023-24 to bring districts to full funding.
- Executive Budget provides a minimum 3% increase for all districts.
 - This is critical: Regardless of “Save Harmless” status, all districts are facing increasing cost pressures and student needs are growing. 92% of the aid generated by the 3% minimum would go to average or high need school districts.

Foundation Aid: Full-Funding is in Sight

Amount Outstanding Last 10 Years & Phase-In Plan

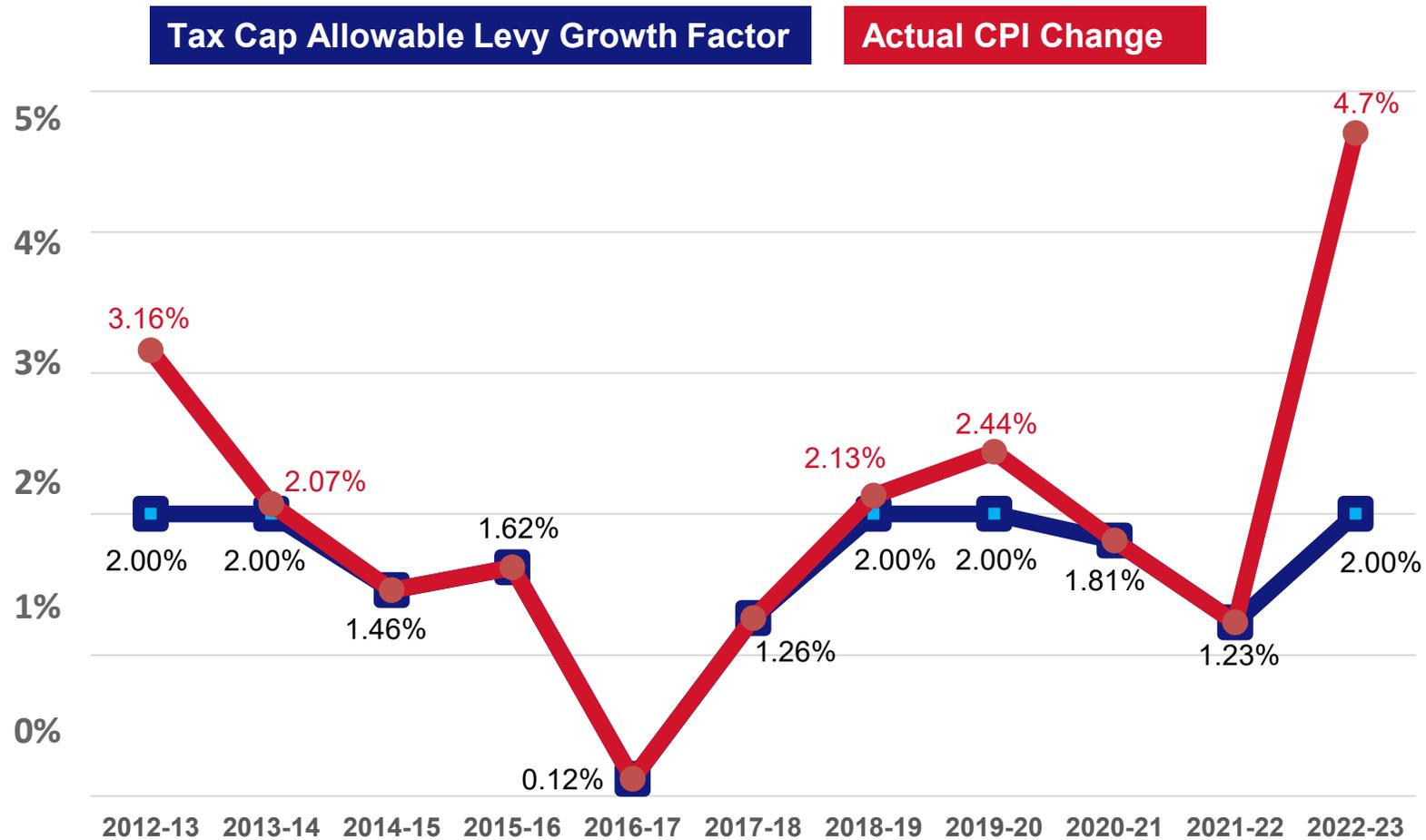


Expense-Based Aids Fully Funded

- The Executive Budget provides full funding for expense-based aids.
 - \$9.3 billion overall (\$471 million increase)
- The Governor's budget does not contain any of the structural changes to expense-based aids that have been proposed in recent years.
 - The commitment to expense-based aid is critical. They provide a stable source of revenue that allow schools to provide necessary programs, services and resources.

The **expense-based aid system works**. It provides **stability and predictability** in funding for critical programs, services and resources.

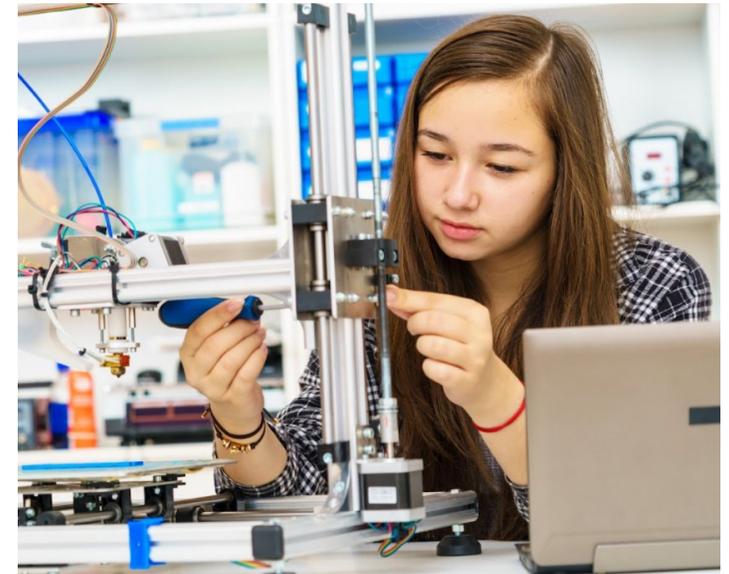
Schools Are Facing Inflationary Cost Pressure



50% of districts would receive a Foundation Aid increase **below the inflation rate**, including 46% receiving the **minimum 3% increase**.

ECB Priority: Investing in CTE – The Future Workforce

- Career and Technical Education represents a pipeline of skilled workers, critical to the success of students and our economy
- The \$30,000 limit on the amount of BOCES CTE instructors' salaries has not been updated in more than a generation - since 1992.
- This limits investment in the future workforce at a time when it's needed the most.



ECB Position: Increase the aidable portion of a CTE instructor's salary to better reflect current costs to schools and the need for investment, along with a proportional increase in Services Aid for Big 5 City Schools.

ECB Priority: Adequate and Sustainable PreK Funding

- Support for early care and education is critical for student success and post-pandemic economic growth.
- Existing grant-based funding streams do not meet all of the needs that exist and do not keep pace with costs.
- The Executive Budget provides no increase in prekindergarten funding for 2022-23, continuing unmet needs and putting pressure on other critical student services.



ECB Position: It is time to consider a recurring, allocation-based method to provide and sustain prekindergarten for all four-year olds.

Executive Budget: Mental Health/Academic Support Grants

The Executive Budget includes a \$100 million two-year grant program to address the impact of the pandemic on student learning and mental (RECOVS or Recover from COVID School Program).

- Would provide funding to address learning loss and student mental health and wellbeing
- Would require a local school district match from federal COVID relief funds
- Proposal prioritizes districts with the greatest need
- Funding could be used for summer learning, after school/extended day programs, hiring mental health professionals, expansion of school-based mental health services

ECB Position: Given widespread need, grant eligibility criteria will need to ensure available funding address as much need as possible.

Executive Budget: Special Education Cost Shift

- Executive Budget seeks to permanently eliminate the state's share of costs related to special education placements for districts outside of New York City and transfer the state's responsibility for maintenance of costs of state-operated schools for the blind and deaf onto school districts.
- Prior to 2020-21, the state covered 18.424% of maintenance costs for CSE placements, school districts 38.424% and localities paid the remainder.
- Temporary elimination of state support last year and resulted in a school district cost share of 56.848%.

ECB Position: Follow current law and reject an unnecessary cost shift from the state that will strain other areas of school budgets.

Executive Budget: Transportation and Building Aid Forgiveness

- The Executive Budget Proposal would give the State Education Department discretion to forgive Building Aid and Transportation Aid penalties for later or incomplete submissions if due to a clerical or administrative error.
 - Would apply to transportations contract and final cost report penalties from 2013-14 to the present
 - Penalties already paid to SED will be repaid to districts through Prior Year Adjustment claim process
- This is positive for schools. However, to work, it requires funding to pay Prior Year Adjustment claims.

ECB Position: An annual appropriation to pay down approved aid claims from prior years must be restored.

Executive Budget: Zero-Emission School Bus Mandate

The governor has proposed requiring schools to transition bus fleets to fully electric vehicles in the coming years.

- Under the plan, all new school buses purchased by districts by 2027 would be required to be electric vehicles and by 2035 all school district bus fleets would need to be entirely electric.
- Under this proposal, the purchase and lease of zero-emission buses, charging stations and other necessary infrastructure, would be eligible for Transportation Aid.

ECB Position: The goal of this proposal is laudable, yet all questions about logistics and cost of moving to a fully-electric school bus fleet need to be fully addressed prior to any mandate being established.

Executive Budget Proposal: Retiree Income Cap

- The governor is proposing to waive the income cap for retired teachers and school workers until June 30, 2024.
- This would enable those who retired from school service to return to work without any impact on pension benefits.

ECB Position: Strong support for this proposal that will provide help to schools as they face critical staffing shortages.



On behalf of the children and communities we all serve, thank you for being here today!