



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Support for Pre-K, Child Care Expansion, Early College HS, P-TECH, and Special Schools

We are truly thankful that Foundation Aid is Fully Funded in this SFY 2024 Executive Budget, with a \$3.1 billion (10%) increase in school aid.

The Executive Budget also includes \$125 million to add 17,500 seats for full-day pre-K 4-year-old programs. We strongly support this funding and also support the new tax credit for the creation and expansion of child care, and the expansion of access to child care assistance.

ALL children should have equal access to high-quality pre-K and K opportunities. Families play an integral role in pre-K, and high-quality programs must include attention to the unique developmental nature of the social/emotional, physical, and academic experience. Further, the pandemic has shown us that high-quality and affordable childcare is critical. By increasing support for our earliest learners, we support both their families, and our children's journey.

We also support the \$20 million grant funding for new ECHS and P-TECH programs, prioritizing support for students in high-need school districts. However, we prefer funding to be non-grant-based, and sufficient to support all school districts on a formula basis. We continue to seek increases in all of these critical programs, as they lead to greater graduation rates and success in college and career.

We also seek new and expanded funding for Community Schools, as they continue to be an effective strategy for student and family success, and often address the health, social, and socio-emotional needs of students and their families.

NYS PTA fully supports our Special Schools - that serve a highly vulnerable population of students. We ask that all funding cuts to Special Schools are restored and new support is added for a new rate-setting methodology for certain special education schools and capital improvements for State Schools for the Deaf.

Our State Budget Asks:

- **Expand the \$125 million for Pre-K**
- **Expand the \$20 million for ECHS and P-TECH, and make it non-grant-based and non-competitive**
- **Support Community Schools**
- **Restore funding cuts to Special Schools and support new rate-setting and capital improvements**



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