



## Support for School Aid

The Executive Budget provides \$37.4 billion in total School Aid for SFY 2026, and increases expected school aid by \$1.7 billion, or 4.7%:

- \$1.5 billion increase (5.9%) in Foundation Aid; and \$230 million increase (2.1%) in other programs including fully funding expense-based aids, categorical aids and competitive grants.

WE SUPPORT the updates to the Foundation Aid formula:

- The 2000 Census poverty rate is replaced with the most recent Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates data, & now unreliable Free and Reduced-Price Lunch data is replaced with economically disadvantaged data, which purports to better reflect our current population of low-income students.

WE ALSO SUPPORT the proposal to ensure each district receives at least a 2% increase in school aid, AND

- \$1.1 billion to reimburse counties for the cost of preschool special education services, which reflects a 5.5% increase of \$57 million & \$413 million to reimburse school districts for the cost of summer school services, which reflects a 2.2% increase of \$9 million;
- Support for Early College High School, P-TECH, Community Schools, BOCES, and STEM programs and the \$65 million for the College in High School Opportunity Fund;
- \$1.8 billion for expansion of child care;
- Continue to seek expansion of funding for universal PreK for ALL students;
- Expansion of part-time TAP to students who are taking a minimum of three credits, down from six;
- \$9.5 million to support new enrollees in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program; and
- Increases in funding to support the SUNY and CUNY systems and \$47 million to cover the remaining costs for community college students ages 25-55 pursuing certain associate's degrees in occupations including teaching, nursing, technology and engineering.

### Our State Budget Ask:

- **Please significantly increase school-based mental health funding in both the Assembly and Senate one-house budgets and enacted State Budget**



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