TO:	State Aid Subcommittee
FROM:	Elizabeth R. Berlin
SUBJECT:	Financial Support for Educational Priorities of the Board
DATE:	November 9, 2017
AUTHORIZATION(S):	

Issue for Discussion

The 2018-2019 State Aid Proposal will be presented at the December State Aid Subcommittee meeting. Since September's meeting, the Subcommittee has considered several important issues in advance of the proposal. The Subcommittee will further refine the Conceptual Framework this month. The priority areas of discussion have emerged as Investments in State Aid and Investments in Educational Priorities.

I.   INVESTMENTS IN STATE AID

Foundation Aid

The Board of Regents has identified the full phase-in of Foundation Aid as a core priority, which is essential to ensure that the goals of equity of opportunity and excellence in outcomes can be met in every school district in the state. This is a core goal under the State's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan.

The Subcommittee has discussed the importance of the State committing to full implementation of Foundation Aid over an aggressive timeframe taking into consideration New York's fiscal landscape. Foundation Aid is designed to address concerns the Board has raised regarding local capacity to support public schools, the needs of the student population and regional differences in the costs of providing services. Foundation Aid provides additional funds to school districts serving students economically disadvantaged, living in rural communities or students who are English language learners.

Full phase-in of Foundation Aid will enable local districts to provide the enhanced assistance many children in these circumstances need to succeed in school, as well as offer more focused instruction and other forms of support.

## II.	INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES

The Regents have identified several priority areas – Early Learning, English language learners, and the successful implementation of the multifaceted components within New York's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Plan.

- **Early Learning**
  After the Board's successful advocacy for additional investments in and the consolidation of prekindergarten programs, the Board of Regents established a Blue Ribbon Committee on Early Learning. The Blue Ribbon Committee will inform the Board of Regents 2018 budget, legislative and policy proposals.

- **Supporting English language learners**
  The Board has identified essential work that must be done to support the education of English language learners. Additional funds would support the full implementation of the Part 154 regulations, including support for supplemental certification for teachers of English language learners, training for staff models that research has shown to be successful with these students and other critical efforts that will help districts meet the needs of these students.

- **Implementing ESSA to support all students**
  - ✓ Professional development of teachers, school and district leaders and other professionals to implement the Next Generation Standards.
  - ✓ Provide focused support to the social-emotional learning efforts that help students learn. There is a need for anti-bullying initiatives that ensure that students will feel safe in the school environment.
  - ✓ Provide access to high quality career and technical education through increases in the State Aid available to support these programs. This is achieved through Special Services Aid for large city and other districts that do not belong to BOCES, and BOCES aid for districts which belong to BOCES. In addition, the state should begin to support additional targeted programming for districts which have innovative approaches to providing high quality career and technical education.
  - ✓ Prepare students and teachers to succeed in the modern technological world. This encompasses improved availability of hardware and software resources, rethinking the curriculum to embed technology in instruction and access to an expanded network of virtual and blended learning opportunities in specialized subjects like Advanced Placement or career and technical certification coursework.
  - ✓ Improve graduation rates statewide, across all demographic subgroups.

Reason(s) for Consideration
Development of Policy.

Background Information

http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1017sad1revised.pdf

http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/State%20Aid%20-%202018-19%20Regents%20State%20Aid%20Proposal.pdf

http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/State%20Aid%20-%20Establishing%20a%20Base%20for%20the%202018-19%20Regents%20State%20Aid%20Proposal.pdf

Timetable for Implementation

The Subcommittee will consider the issues discussed in its Proposal for the Support of State Aid and Educational Priorities and bring a formal 2018-2019 Regents Proposal before the Board at its December meeting.

Current Fiscal Environment: Context for the 2018-2019 State Budget

Federal Funding Uncertainty

There is great uncertainty in how the Federal government may change funding for education programs, which have a direct impact on SED and schools, but also in health funding for the State, which could impact what resources are available for education in 2018-2019.

Comptroller's Report

Comptroller DiNapoli recently issued a report highlighting concerns of a "triple threat" of fiscal risks facing New York State. The combination of lower-than-expected tax receipts, an existing budget deficit, and uncertain reductions in federal aid will all contribute to uncertainty over how much spending may be able to increase next year.

Decisions about Size of State Budget

Recent Investments in Program Areas

According to the State's Financial Plan, since 2011-2012, total State Operating Funds have increased by $10.9B; within that, School Aid has increased by $6.1B, meaning that state aid to schools represents 56% of the total state spending increases since 2011-12.

2018-2019 Conceptual Regents State Aid Proposal
Investing in the Whole Child—from Prekindergarten through College

Foundation Aid: Completing the Full Phase-in

The Board of Regents has advocated for a robust funding formula that helps districts meet the needs of all its students. The continued phase-in of this Foundation Aid formula is key to supporting school districts in providing for the needs in an ever-changing and uncertain fiscal environment. A fixed phase-in period will provide funding stability for all school districts.

Priority 1: Early Learning

After the Board's successful advocacy for additional investments in and the consolidation of the prekindergarten programs, the Board of Regents established a Blue Ribbon Committee on Early Learning. The Blue Ribbon Committee will inform the Board of Regents 2018 budget, legislative and policy proposals.

Priority 2: Supporting All Students

Implementing the Federal Every Student Success Act will provide fundamental supports for all students, through:

- Professional Development
- Supports for Social-Emotional learning
- Career and Technical Education
- Increased technology use; and
- Improved graduation rates

At the same time, continued efforts on the Dignity for All Students Act and other anti-bullying programs will provide supportive environments for all students.

Priority 3: Supporting English Language Learners

Additional funds would support the full implementation of the Part 154 regulations, including support for supplemental certification for teachers of English language learners, training for staff models that research has shown to be successful with these students and other critical efforts that will help districts meet the needs of these students.

A focus on profressional development through the Part 154 regulations will improve the quality of educational programs provided to these students.

Priority 4: Expanding College and Career Pathways

A 21st Century workforce requires a 21st Century education; through expanding career and technical education opportunities for students in all school districts, our children will have the tools they need to be successful in college and their careers.

A focus on technology as its used in curriculum, both through hardware and software in the classroom and virtual learning opportunities, will expand the footprint of these programs.