2018-19 Conceptual Regents State Aid Proposal

State Aid Subcommittee

November 13, 2017
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.

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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

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 professional development through the Part 154 regulations will improve the quality of educational programs provided to these students.

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.
Thank You