



Regents Budget & Legislative Priorities Framework Discussion

October 2023



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity





Current Budget Environment

Projected School Aid Expenditures:

- 2023-2024 Enacted Budget +\$3.03 billion in school aid
- 2024-2025 Estimated Increase +\$1.35 billion in school aid
- **State Financial Plan:** Projects a substantial deficit for the coming fiscal year.



Developing a Strategic Initiative Road Map

- Regents and Department have identified many areas for improvement with budget requests
- Prioritizing and streamlining requests is critical for effective and targeted advocacy

Customer Service & Organizational Effectiveness Agency Requests

- Information technology needs – infrastructure and support for important outward facing systems
 - NYS Standards Implementation Work
 - Exam Translations
 - NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT)
- NOVELny
 - Charter School Office
 - Staff support for the Zero-Emission Bus transition
 - Additional support for rate setting methodology reform

Supporting Lifelong Learning

Emerging Needs

- Needs of students with disabilities (including FAPE22)
- Asylum Seekers & other English Language Learners
- Higher education supports
- Cultural education – State Museum, Library, Aid to public libraries
- Workforce preparedness across the professions and in our adult education programming

Roadmap for Board Policy Goals

- Equitable access to high-quality opportunities from pre-k through career and college.
- Ensuring that students have equal access to well-prepared teachers.

Planning for the future of our state:

Data suggests that we will be serving a shrinking, but more diverse, school-age population with the impacts of the changes varying across districts. Adults will need continuing education opportunities.

How does the Board's Policy over the next several years address these issues?

- Access to high quality learning opportunities through regionalization options, dual enrollment, career and technical education
- Adult learning & career exploration across the P-20 continuum
- Current year funds for school districts with large enrollment increases
- Enhanced support for public libraries statewide, plus the state library, museum & archives
- Enhancements to other school aid funding for priority areas
- Higher education opportunity program enhancements
- Improving access to high quality instruction in literacy and the arts, for residents of all ages
- Maintain full foundation aid funding, providing short term improvements, and the research needs for longer term improvements
- Streamlining state prekindergarten funding and providing more inclusive
- Student health/mental health and wellness including safe and supportive schools
- Support for emerging multilingual learners and communication with parents
- Supporting students with disabilities served in a free appropriate public education
- Teacher, leader, and licensed professions pipeline

Potential Budget and Legislative Initiatives

Early Learning Through College

- Improving English Language Proficiency Assessment
- Streamlining Early Childhood Programs and Preschool Inclusivity
- Building Residential Capacity for Students with Disabilities
- Funding for Opportunity Programs, Dual Enrollment and Advanced Coursework, and Postsecondary Supports & Services for Students with Disabilities

Lifelong Learning

- Adequate funding to support NYS Libraries
- Funding Office of Cultural Education- State Museum, State Library, State Archives, and NYSSSA/Empire State Arts Institute

Foundation Aid Updates

- Formula was fully funded for the current school year
- Outdated formula elements, for example:
 - 2000 Census poverty data
 - 2003 District needs categories
 - FRPL impact has changed thanks to Community Eligibility Program

Other issues are more complex and should be studied in depth



Initiative:
Supporting Districts Serving Students with Disabilities



FAPE



Updating State Law

Initiative: Supporting Districts Serving Asylum Seekers



Supporting districts in their work



“Growth Aid” for districts with large increases in enrollment



Exam translations

Thank you



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