



Our Students. Their Moment.

Summary of 2014-15 State Aid Recommendations

Board of Regents
State Aid Subcommittee

February 10, 2014



2014-15

**REGENTS STATE AID
PROPOSAL**

General Support for Public Schools

\$1 billion increase recommended

- **\$719 million Transitional Operating Aid.** Transitional Operating Aid adheres to the principles of the Foundation Aid formula and addresses the impact of several years of Gap Elimination Adjustments.
- **\$281 million for increases in reimbursement-based programs.** These include Transportation Aid, Building Aid and BOCES Aid. These increases were the result of formulas in existing law.

Strategic Investments

\$300 million in new, focused spending recommended

\$300 million for investments in several strategic areas:

- **Strengthening teaching,**
- **Ensuring that our youngest students get a good start,**
- **Investing in instructional materials,**
- **Enhancing career/technical education, and**
- **Increasing support for sharing resources.**

Strengthening Teaching

\$125 million recommended

Teaching is the Core: Core Instruction Development Fund

- Fund will represent a \$125 million investment in 2014-15, and it will grow to \$200 million for 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- This categorical program will facilitate the state's seven-year (2010-2017) transition to the Common Core standards.
- Will support significantly more professional development and collaborative planning time in the school day/year.
- Includes activities that will encourage parent engagement with the Common Core.
- Will be allocated via a formula that recognizes district fiscal capacity.

Expand Early Childhood Education

\$125 million increase recommended

- The \$125 million increase is in addition to \$384.7 million currently provided for Universal Prekindergarten.
- The Regents recommended a comprehensive, multi-year program that will expand access to quality full day prekindergarten.
 - This includes an initial investment of \$125 million in funding for the 2014-15 school year with continued expansion in future years.
- We also recommend that the State continue to invest in improving the quality of early childhood programs through QUALITYstarsNY.

Enhancing Instructional Materials

\$50 million increase recommended

Instructional Materials Aids:

- The Regents recommend \$50 million, or 20 percent, in increased support for the State's instructional materials aids programs.
- As schools align their instruction to the Common Core learning standards, the transition will be supported by investments in new instructional materials: new texts, new software and new computer hardware.

Career and Technical Education

- The Regents recommended that the aidable salary for all CTE programs be increased over a period of five years, until the gap between the current salaries and actual salaries has closed.
- The initial increase of 20 percent, to salary levels of \$36,000, would be effective for programs offered in 2014-15.
- For CTE programs that meet rigorous national standards with passing nationally recognized assessments, including P-Tech schools, we recommend that 100 percent of salaries be immediately aidable under the existing formulas in BOCES AID.
- The Regents recommend a similar expansion in Special Services Aid.
- For CTE programs offered in the Big Five in 2014-15, we recommend increasing the threshold by 20 percent, to \$4,680 per student.
- This enhanced formula will help districts fill this gap and increase their capacity to provide students with an opportunity to acquire the skills they need to succeed.

Sharing Resources

Encourage Regionalization and Reorganization of Services:

- **The Board of Regents recommends that the formulas that are used to incentivize reorganizations be enhanced to help ease changes in tax rates for reorganized school districts.**
- **This could include linking the Reorganization Incentive formula to Foundation Aid, rather than 2006-07 Operating Aid.**

Protect Educational Opportunities Through Regional High Schools

- In an environment of fiscal constraints and declining enrollment, many school districts are at risk of educational insolvency or not meeting their fiscal obligations.
- The Regents have proposed legislation to allow school districts to build collaborative secondary school partnerships that will provide greater educational services.
- Two models:
 - Regional High School operated by a host district
 - Regional High School operated by a BOCES



2014-15

**EXECUTIVE BUDGET
PROPOSAL**

General Support for Public Schools

\$682 million increase

- **\$324 million to reduce the Gap Elimination Adjustment.**
- **\$74 million for a Fiscal Stabilization Reserve Fund.**
- **\$284 million to fund growth in the existing expense-based aid and grant programs.**

PreK and Competitive Grants

- **\$100 million to fund the first year of a new PreK program (\$1.5 billion appropriation over five years).**
- **Reprograms \$25 million in 2013-14 competitive grants:**
 - **\$5 million for 10 new P-Tech High Schools**
 - **\$20 million for Teacher Excellence Grants of up to \$20,000 per highly effective teacher**
- **\$50 million in new competitive performance grants**

Additional Grants

- **Continues \$12 million grant for Roosevelt to support academic improvement**
- **\$720 million from casino revenues for afterschool programs. \$160 million payable in the 2015-16 school year**

Smart Schools Bond Act

- Subject to approval by the electorate, the Executive Budget would establish \$2 billion in state debt to improve learning and opportunity for public school students by funding capital projects to:
 - **Acquire learning technology equipment or facilities, install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity, and construct, enhance, and modernize educational facilities to accommodate prekindergarten programs.**
- Allocation based on the proportion of state school aid they receive.
- Commissioner, SUNY Chancellor and Director of the Division of Budget would establish guidelines, eligibility criteria and approve/reject investment plans submitted by districts.

Other Items

- **The Executive Budget did not include language to continue the freeze on Charter School Tuition, which was previously set at 2010-11 levels.**
- **November Data Freeze: The Executive Budget includes language which would limit State Aid to amounts reported by November of 2013.**
- **Proposes to delay or phase-in tax rate adjustments for reorganizing districts.**
- **Continues Contract for Excellence Program.**