



NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Division of the Budget

EDUCATION

\$769 MILLION

INCREASE FOR SCHOOL AID



School district support will have risen



35%

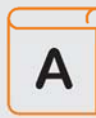
since 2012



Over **70%**

of the increase goes to high-need school districts.

\$10 million in



AFTER SCHOOL EXPANSION

serving an additional

6,250 students



The Budget provides **\$200 million,**

up \$50 million

to support the ongoing transformation of

HIGH-NEED SCHOOLS

into community hubs.

In 2019, the State will serve

126,000 STUDENTS

with high quality, publicly-funded

PRE-K PROGRAMS



High school

GRADUATION RATES

have increased every year,

since 2012.



Budget Highlights

\$769 Million School Aid Increase. Foundation Aid is increased by \$338 million. State support for school districts will have increased by 35 percent since FY 2012. Over 70 percent of the increase goes to high-need school districts.

\$15 Million Pre-K Expansion. The additional investment in prekindergarten will bring high-quality prekindergarten instruction to 3,000 three- and four-year-old children in high-need school districts.

\$10 Million After School Expansion. The expansion of public after school care will serve 6,250 additional students in high-need communities across the State.

Increase Support for Community Schools. The Budget provides \$200 million – an increase of \$50 million – to support the continued transformation of high-need schools into community hubs.

No Student Goes Hungry. Legislation and funding will provide students of all ages, backgrounds and financial situations access to healthy, locally-sourced meals to address child hunger.

Create Smart Start. The Budget provides \$6 million to expand high-quality computer science and engineering education.

The FY 2019 Executive Budget reflects the Governor’s strong commitment to education through a \$769 million annual increase in School Aid – an amount double the statutory School Aid growth cap. This represents a cumulative 35 percent increase since FY 2012. The Budget provides a \$338 million increase in Foundation Aid, and includes support for several key initiatives, including the Governor’s sixth consecutive investment in high-quality prekindergarten, a second round of Empire State After School awards to high-need districts, the continued transformation of high-need schools into community hubs, the largest State investment ever in computer science and engineering programming and instruction, and additional funding for early college high schools. Together, these investments advance the transformation of public education across the State. Important initiatives from prior years are also sustained, including the \$340 million Statewide Universal Full-day Prekindergarten Program and the \$2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act.

Overview

Public education represents a significant investment of New York’s resources. With total school district spending exceeding \$65 billion, education is both the largest area of State spending and the largest component of local property taxes. New York has ranked first nationally in per pupil spending for eleven straight years, a reflection of the State’s long-standing commitment to provide all students with the opportunity to excel as learners, workers, and citizens. With the Executive Budget, School Aid increases will total \$6.8 billion over seven years. Last year alone, the FY 2018 Budget included an additional \$1.0 billion (4.2 percent) increase, by far the largest increase of any major category of State spending, showing once again School Aid is the State’s highest funding priority.

The FY 2019 Executive Budget continues the progress made to strengthen educational offerings and increase access across the State. Building upon the State’s multi-year investment in high-quality, full-day prekindergarten, the Budget provides additional funding to expand prekindergarten access for three- and four-year-olds in high-need school districts. In addition, the Budget reflects the Governor’s continued commitment to the transformation of high-need schools into community hubs. These initiatives, along with programs already underway, are improving public education across the State – reaching students earlier and ensuring they have access to highly effective teachers, programs and schools.

Support for Public Education

New York’s public schools spend more per pupil (\$21,206) than any other state in the country – 86 percent above the national average (\$11,392). Several recent initiatives have focused on improving the State’s education system even further. These major initiatives include:

- Prekindergarten Programs.** The State spends more than \$800 million annually on public prekindergarten programs for three- and four-year-old children, serving over 123,000 students statewide. In FY 2015, the Enacted Budget committed \$1.5 billion over five years to support the phase-in of a full-day prekindergarten program for four-year-old children across the State. That same year, New York received a grant award of \$100 million over four years from the United States Department of Education to expand access to full-day prekindergarten in high-need school districts. In FY 2016, the Enacted Budget included \$30 million to support the first State-funded full-day prekindergarten program for three-year-olds, while also expanding prekindergarten access for four-year-olds. Building on that investment, the FY 2017 Enacted Budget further expanded prekindergarten access to three-year-old children in the State’s highest-need school districts. The FY 2018 Enacted Budget promoted prekindergarten access for all high-need students by targeting funding to the few remaining high-need school districts without prekindergarten programs, and enacted legislation consolidating the State’s existing prekindergarten programs into the Universal Prekindergarten program.
- After School Programs.** In FY 2018, the State made a new \$35 million investment in the Empire State After School program, providing services to an additional 22,000 students and bringing the total annual investment to \$100 million for public after school programming throughout the State. With these funds, 66,000 students benefited from high-quality extended learning and youth development opportunities in supportive, safe environments in the critical time period of after school hours. These funds were targeted to high-need communities in every region of the State – including the State’s 16 Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI) communities.

Performance Profile

Improving Graduation Rates.

Since FY 2012, high school graduation rates have increased 5.4 percentage points.

Expanding Access to After School Programs.

In FY 2019, more than 72,000 students across every region of the State will benefit from high quality, publicly funded after school care. Students will engage in safe activities such as sports, music, and other educational programming during after school hours.

Increasing Opportunities for Early Childhood Education.

In FY 2019, the State will serve 126,000 children in high-quality, publicly funded prekindergarten programs – 75 percent of whom will be served in full-day spots.

Transforming School Districts into Community Hubs.

More than one-third of school districts in New York receive community schools funding and have begun transforming their schools into community hubs with wrap-around services.

Building the Classrooms of the 21st Century.

Over 425 Smart Schools Investment Plans totaling nearly \$400 million have been approved, supporting classroom technology, high-tech security, and school and community connectivity.

- Smart Schools Bond Act.** In November 2014, the Smart Schools Bond Act Referendum, proposed by Governor Cuomo, was approved by voters. The Smart Schools Bond Act provides \$2 billion in funding for districts to reimagine the State’s classrooms and provide New York’s students with the technological resources, skills, and learning environments necessary to succeed in the 21st century. Funding supports enhanced education technologies, including infrastructure improvements, high-speed broadband internet access, and active learning technologies. Additionally, the Smart Schools Bond Act supports the State’s long-term investments in full-day prekindergarten through the construction of new prekindergarten classrooms, the replacement of classroom trailers with permanent classroom spaces, and high-tech school safety programs. To date, over 425 Smart Schools Investment Plans totaling almost \$400 million have been approved by the Smart Schools Review Board.
- Community Schools.** When schools and communities partner to provide students with health and social services, learning improves and students succeed. Over the past five years, the State has invested over \$400 million to transform schools across 230 high-need districts into community schools. This funding supports services that are unique to each school’s individual needs, including before- and after-school programs, summer learning activities, medical and dental care, and other social services.

Table 5: Summary of Spending (State Operating Fund)

Category	2017-18 School Year (millions)	2018-19 School Year (millions)	Change	
			Dollar (millions)	Percent
School Aid	\$25,587	\$26,356	\$769	3.0

Table 6: School Aid Increase

Category of Increase	Change (millions)
Additional Foundation Aid	\$338
\$50 Million Community Schools Set-aside	
Reimbursement for Expense-Based Aids / Other	\$317
Fiscal Stabilization Fund	\$64
Expanded Prekindergarten for Three- and Four-Year-Olds	\$15
Empire State After School Program	\$10
Early College High Schools	\$9
Smart Start	\$6
Breakfast After the Bell	\$5
Expanded Advanced Placement Access	\$2.5
Other Education Initiatives	\$2.5
School Aid Increase	\$769

Proposed FY 2019 Budget Actions

The Executive Budget reflects the Governor's strong commitment to improved student outcomes and builds upon the foundational work of prior years. In FY 2019, School Aid will continue to represent New York's largest State-supported program, accounting for roughly 30 percent of total General Fund spending.

School Aid

The FY 2019 Executive Budget provides an overall school aid increase of \$769 million (3.0 percent). This includes a \$338 million increase in Foundation Aid with a community schools set-aside increase of \$50 million for the continued transformation of high-need schools into community hubs, \$317 million in reimbursements for expense-based aids, a \$15 million expansion of high-quality prekindergarten for three- and four-year-old children, a \$10 million expansion of Empire State After School grants to high-need districts, an additional \$9 million for early college high schools, and a \$6 million investment, the State's largest ever, in computer science and engineering instruction. In addition, the Budget advances legislation to require the State's largest school districts to submit school-level funding plans to demonstrate how resources are allocated to individual schools.

Community Schools

The Budget continues the Governor's push to transform New York's high-need schools into community schools. Last year's Budget invested \$150 million as a set-aside within Foundation Aid to support the Governor's community schools efforts across the State. This year, the FY 2019 Budget increases the community schools set-aside amount by \$50 million to a total of \$200 million. This increased funding is targeted to districts with failing schools and/or districts experiencing significant growth in homeless pupils or English language learners. In addition, the Budget increases the minimum community schools funding amount from \$10,000 to \$75,000. This ensures all high-need districts across the State can apply community schools funds to a wide-range of activities, including hiring community school coordinators, providing before- and after-school mentoring services, offering summer learning activities, and providing health and dental care services.

Prekindergarten

The Budget includes an additional \$15 million investment in prekindergarten to expand high-quality half-day and full-day prekindergarten instruction for 3,000 three- and four-year-old children in high-need school districts. Preference for these funds will be given to the few remaining high-need school districts currently without a prekindergarten program, and will focus on including students in integrated or community-based settings. The State will also continue its \$5 million investment in the implementation of QUALITYstarsNY, a quality rating and improvement system intended to ensure New York's youngest students are enrolled in the highest quality prekindergarten programs possible.

Full-Day Kindergarten Conversion

To further incentivize the last few school districts in the State with half-day kindergarten programs to establish full-day kindergarten programs in the 2018-19 school year, the Budget advances legislation to provide additional Full-Day Kindergarten Conversion Aid. These additional funds will further support school districts transitioning to full-day programs, and will strengthen the quality of education for five-year-old children in the State.

Empire State After School Program

The FY 2019 Budget provides \$10 million to fund a second round of Empire State After School awards. These funds will provide an additional 6,250 students with public after school care in high-need communities across the State. Funding will be targeted to districts with high rates of childhood homelessness. In addition, to help deter potential gang activity or involvement, \$2 million will be targeted to vulnerable and at-risk communities. This expanded initiative will keep young people engaged in safe environments in sports, music, and other educational programming during after school hours.

Early College High Schools

New York currently has 60 early college high school programs serving thousands of students in every region of the State. These programs allow students to get a jump start on college by providing opportunities to earn college credit or an associate's degree. To build upon the success of the existing programs, the Budget commits an additional \$9 million to create 15 new early college high school programs. This expansion will target communities with low graduation or college access rates, and will align new schools with in-demand industries such as technology, sports management and finance.

Smart Start

Computer science and engineering are among employers' most in-demand skills. To continue building New York's pipelines in these critical areas, the FY 2019 Budget creates the *Smart Start* program and provides \$6 million to expand high-quality computer science and engineering education. Grants will support teachers with resources and professional development opportunities, and will further expose students to valuable curricula. Schools that receive an award will work with their Regional Economic Development Councils to tailor the program to the needs of regional businesses and emerging employment growth sectors. In addition, the Budget advances legislation to convene a working group of industry leaders and top educators to create model computer science standards to be made available to any school. Together, these initiatives will strengthen New York's computer science and engineering pipelines and prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow.

No Student Goes Hungry

The Executive Budget proposes legislation and additional funding for several new initiatives to provide students of all ages, backgrounds and financial situations access to healthy, locally-sourced meals to address child hunger. Through the No Student Goes Hungry program, the State will:

- **Ban Lunch Shaming Statewide.** The Budget includes legislation to ban lunch shaming practices in all schools, including serving alternative lunches (e.g., a cold cheese sandwich) to students who cannot pay at the point of services. Instead, schools would be required to provide the student with a regular meal. In addition, schools would be required to submit a plan that includes a notification process for a student's parents if their child's school meal account balance is low, communication procedures to support families' enrollment in free or reduced price meal programs for their children, and an explanation of the school's unpaid meal policies.
- **Support Breakfast After the Bell.** To improve access to breakfast for the State's poorest students, beginning with the 2018-19 school year, schools with more than 70 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch will be required to provide breakfast after the school day has begun. Examples of Breakfast After the Bell models include breakfast in the classroom, extended cafeteria hours, food kiosks and vending machines that dispense healthy breakfasts to students. To ease the transition, the State will provide \$7 million in capital funds for equipment such as coolers and vending machines, and an additional \$5 million in funding to support reimbursement to schools for anticipated increases in the number of meals served.
- **Expand the Farm to School Program.** The Budget doubles the State's existing Farm to School grant program from \$750,000 to \$1.5 million. This program helps connect schools with local farmers, offering technical assistance and capacity in the school to source local products.
- **Increase the Use of Farm-Fresh, Locally Grown Foods at School.** To incentivize schools to use more local farm-fresh products, the Budget increases the reimbursement schools receive for lunches from the current \$0.06 per meal to \$0.25 per meal for any school district that purchases at least 30 percent of its food from New York farmers and growers.

Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Access

New York State has one of the highest rates of participation in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) coursework in the country. Unfortunately, the cost of assessments associated with these courses can serve as barriers to student participation, especially for students from low-income households. While partial supports exist, the remaining costs can still be a burden. The FY 2019 Budget includes an additional \$2 million – \$4 million total – to subsidize AP and IB exam fees for thousands of low-income students across the State. The Budget also provides \$500,000 in grants for technical assistance to support school districts that wish to provide advanced courses and do not currently do so or do so only on a very limited basis. Combined, these initiatives will provide further access to advanced coursework for low-income students, and will promote educational equity across the State.

Charter Schools

Reflecting reforms enacted in FY 2018, the FY 2019 Executive Budget increases charter school tuition in alignment with public school spending, and provides New York City charter schools with a total per pupil funding increase of 3 percent. This allows charter schools to continue to innovate, recruit high-

quality teachers and staff, and provide strong educational options for New York’s families and students. Additionally, the Budget increases support for new and expanding charter schools located in privately leased space in New York City by updating the charter facilities aid calculation to better reflect actual costs.

Nonpublic School Programs

Approximately 400,000 elementary and secondary students attend more than 1,600 non-public schools in New York State. The Executive Budget increases aid by 3 percent to \$186 million to reimburse nonpublic schools’ costs for State-mandated activities. The Budget also continues the two-year \$60 million appropriation, first enacted in FY 2017, to accelerate reimbursement for the Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP) program. In addition, the Budget continues a \$5 million reimbursement program for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) instruction.

Summer School Special Education Programs

The Executive Budget proposes to more closely align State reimbursement to school districts for summer school special education tuition costs with the wealth-equalized aid ratio used to reimburse school districts for similar programs operated during the school year. This change would conform reimbursement for summer school special education tuition costs with the more equitable wealth adjusted financing structure of the State’s School Aid funding system. Summer school special education transportation and maintenance costs will continue to be funded by the State at current rates.

Other Budget Actions

- **Master Teachers Program.** Building on the success of Governor Cuomo’s Master Teacher Program – which has awarded more than \$50 million total to 900 teachers – the Budget provides \$1 million to fund an additional cohort of master teachers in high-need districts. Each master teacher is awarded \$15,000 per year for four years (\$60,000 total). Those selected as master teachers will pledge to engage in peer mentoring, participate in and lead professional development activities, work closely with pre-service and early career teachers to foster a supportive environment for the next generation of STEM teachers, and ensure the most innovative teacher practices in STEM are shared across all grades and regions.
- **Gang Prevention Education Program.** The Budget invests \$1.5 million over three years to support gang prevention and resistance initiatives for middle- and high-school students in at-risk communities. These funds will help students avoid gang recruitment, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviors.

- **Empire State Excellence in Teaching Awards.** To recognize and honor excellence and innovation in the classroom, the Budget provides \$400,000 to fund a third round of Empire State Excellence in Teaching awards. This funding will be awarded on a regional basis and will recognize at least 60 teachers. Awardees receive \$5,000 to use for professional development activities, including coursework to enhance expertise, attendance at a state or national education conference, or enrollment in a summer institute or certification program.
- **Improving School Mental Health.** Trauma at early ages has been found to lead to learning difficulties and ongoing behavior problems. To better support students, the Budget invests \$250,000 to create enhanced mental health support grants for community schools. These funds can be used to provide wrap-around mental health services, improve school climate, combat violence and bullying, and support social-emotional learning.
- **Recovery High Schools.** The Executive Budget authorizes BOCES non-component school districts, including the Big Five city school districts, to participate in recovery high schools. Recovery schools are alternative high schools which provide sober environments where students in recovery can learn in a substance-free, supportive environment. Outcome studies have found 70 percent of students attending recovery schools successfully maintain sobriety for a full year after treatment; this is only true for 30 percent of students who return to their community high schools. Recovery high schools are supported by BOCES, which are funded by sponsoring school districts. Enrollment is open to high school students diagnosed with a substance use disorder and a commitment to recovery.
- **Reining in Expense-Based Aids.** Since FY 2012, school district spending on non-instructional expenses such as construction and transportation has far outpaced inflation. To encourage school districts to control spending and free up additional State resources for more progressive Foundation Aid increases, the FY 2019 Budget advances legislation to cap growth in major expense-based aid categories to 2 percent beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

