

Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Education

, President of the University of the State of New York and
Commissioner of Education

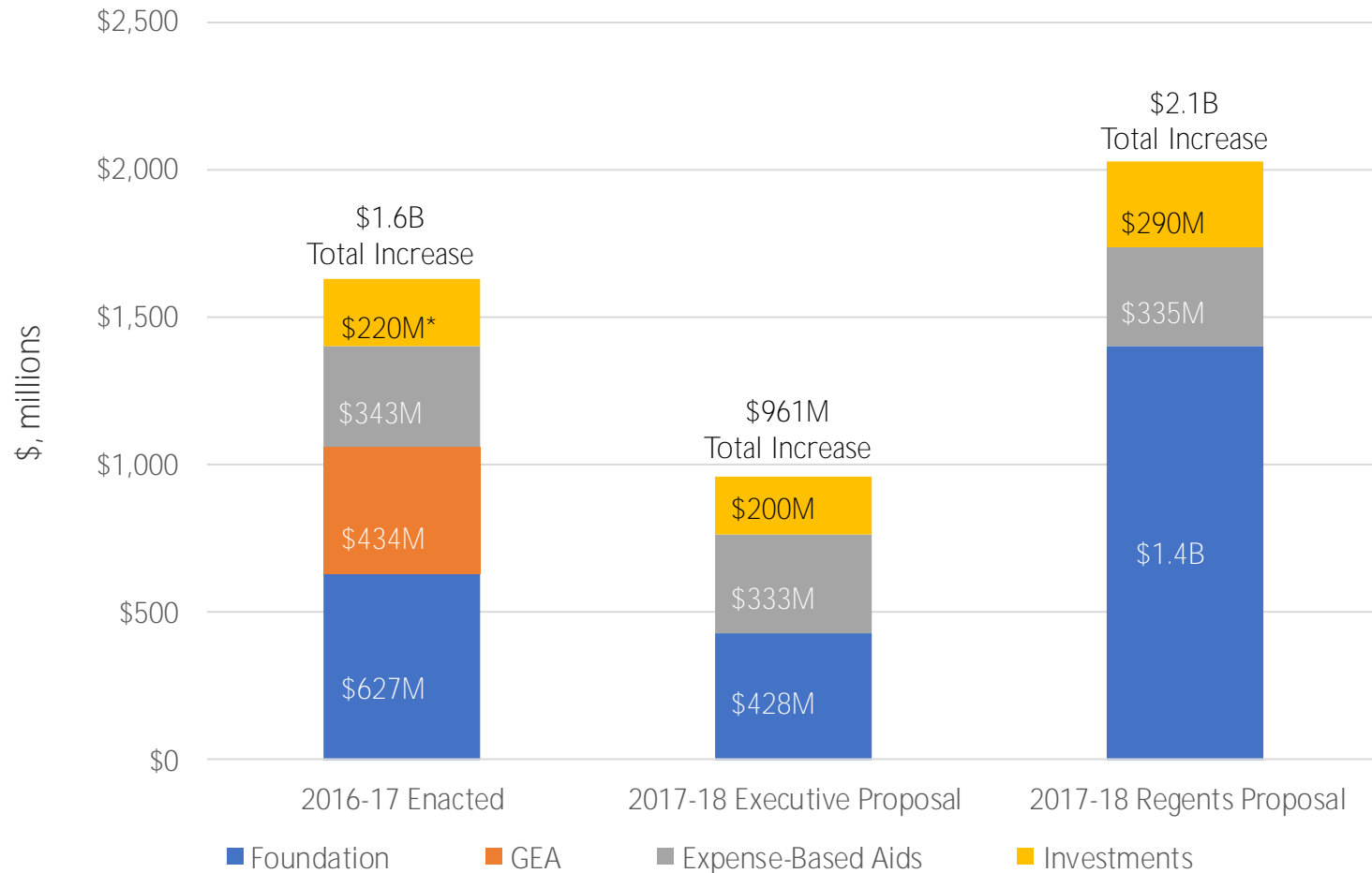
Regents State Aid Proposal: State Aid to Schools

Recommends a \$2.1 billion total increase in school aid for the 2017-18 school year to support our schools.

Provides \$1.8 billion in formula aids to school districts providing a significant increase of Foundation Aid.

Provides \$290 million in critical investments

Regents State Aid Proposal: Increases in State Aid to Schools



* \$220M increase for bilingual education, \$200M for career and technical education, \$1M for early childhood education, \$1M for high school graduation, \$1M for other programs

Regents State Aid Proposal: Expand Access to Early Learning

We should continue to expand access to high-quality Pre-K programs to all 4-year-old children in New York.

Streamline all existing programs with one **allocational** program, high-quality standards, and a uniform set of quality metrics;

Provide funding at \$10,000 or 2 times the state aid rate/per pupil (whichever is higher) for full-day programs in high-need districts; and

Allocate funding according to a need-weighted formula, not through a competitive procurement.

Truly Universal Pre-Kindergarten

| | Targeted Pre-K (TPK) (1966) \$1,303,000 | Universal Pre-K (UPK) (1997) \$385,034,734 | Priority Pre -K (PPK) 2013-2018 \$25,000,000 | Statewide Full-Day Pre -K (SUFDPK) 2014-2019 \$340,000,000 | Federal Preschool Development Expansion Grant (PDG) 2015-2018 \$25,000,000 | High Need Three and Four -Year -Olds (EPK) 2015-2020 \$30,000,000 | 3Prekindergarten Program (3PK) 2016-2021 \$10,361,410 |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Number of Participating Districts | 3 BOCES | 444 School Districts | 25 School Districts | 53 School Districts + 17 CBOs | 5 School Districts | 34 School Districts | 25 School Districts |
| Rates per child | Folded into UPK in | | | | | | |
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Truly Universal Pre-Kindergarten

We urge you to eliminate fragmentation in the current pre-kindergarten system creating a single unified pre-kindergarten system that would:

Align the existing Pre-K programs to create a single **streamlined** set of program standards, eligibility requirements, and oversight processes; and

Eliminate competitive procurements that create uncertainty for school districts and families and replace it over a multi-year period with an **allocational** program that does not require competition by absorbing the competitive programs within the traditional UPK allocation formula as contracts expire.



Regents State Aid Proposal: Support English Language Learners (ELLs)

The

Regents recommend increased support for appropriate programs and opportunities for students who are learning English, including access to dual-language programs and age- and language-appropriate instructional materials and supports.

This funding would create district opportunities for investment in:

Co-teaching;

Family engagement;

Programs and Services for New ELLs;

Professional development; and

Services to Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE).

Regents State Aid Proposal: Support for College and Career Pathways

Access to high-quality career and technical education programs will be a boon to the workforce for students who choose that pathway after high school. It is time to support and incentivize the creation of high-quality CTE programming by:

- Increasing the salary cap for CTE instructors in BOCES programs to expand program offerings; and
- Expanding Special Services Aid for the Big 5 and non-component school districts to reimburse actual expenses and aid existing 9

Regents State Aid Proposal: Create a Fund for Professional Development

As New

York transitions to new standards, we urge you to support continuous instructional improvement by our educators by creating an Instructional Development Fund to build upon the existing work of districts and BOCES.

This professional development funding would support and sustain a stakeholder-led Statewide Professional Learning Team, which would identify gaps in both content and access to existing opportunities to obtain high-quality, standards-aligned professional development.

After the Learning Team identifies gaps and regional needs, the Fund would support efforts to:

- Create and share high-quality curricula and curricular resources;
- Strengthen regional networks of instructional professionals to support the work of their colleagues and share promising practices; and
- Coach and mentor teachers in communities where professional development opportunities are scarce.

State Aid Modeling and Facilities Planning Systems 2017-18 \$2.0 M Budget Request

Support Budget-



Enhanced Support and Oversight to Targeted Districts 2017-18 \$675,000 Budget Request

Create Real-Time, On-Demand Capacity to Meet Unique District Needs

Following years of concern and unrest in the East Ramapo School District, the Department has appointed a series of monitors to the district who have, over time, worked with district leadership and the community to take great steps forward.

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has been widely publicized, there may be other districts that could benefit from a similar type of close monitoring.

The Department is seeking \$225,000 in state funding to continue monitors in East Ramapo, as well as \$450,000 in new funding to create standing capacity in the Department that could be ready to address emerging issues in distressed districts.

2017-18 \$1.5 M Budget Request

Safeguard Academic and Fiscal Guidance and Monitoring Over Charter Schools

responsibilities regarding the academic programming, statutory and regulatory compliance, fiscal management, and development component of a system of over 300 schools around the state that enroll over 150,000 students.

While the state provides the Department no direct support for charter school oversight and guidance, the SUNY Charter Schools Institute receives \$848,000 in direct support for its activities.

The Department is seeking \$1.5 million in state funding so that the Charter Schools Office can provide adequate oversight, monitoring, and guidance.

Excessive Teacher Turnover Prevention

2017-18 \$4.0 M Budget Request

Ensure That Our Most Vulnerable Students Have Access to Great Teachers

Both state and federal data have identified a shortage of Special Education Teachers and Bilingual Special Education Teachers throughout the state, and across all grades.

In addition, salary differentials between public school teachers and teachers in special education schools ranges from 20 to 50 percent, and in combination with the teacher shortage is impacting the recruitment and retention of qualified staff to serve some of our most vulnerable student populations.

Since 2001, additional funding has been provided to increase compensation for teachers providing instructional services in Chapter 853 schools and Special Act School Districts. In 2007, this was expanded to include school-age and preschool providers. However, the current \$4 million allocated for this purpose has not kept up with the needed funding to more adequately address this challenge.

The Department is seeking \$4 million in state funding to double the current state funding dedicated to the prevention of teacher turnover. This funding would be allocated using the same methodology currently used.

Enhance the Achievement of English Language Learners

2017-18 \$12.4 M Budget Request

New funding would support Native Language Arts test development (\$11.4 million) and

• 2017

Project-Based Assessments as Pathway to Graduation

2017-18 \$8.0 M Budget Request

Enhance Opportunities for Students to Better Demonstrate What They Know

The Department is committed to developing mechanisms that provide students with different ways to demonstrate that they have met the high standards for high school graduation.

Use of project-based assessments is one additional mechanism to provide an alternate measure for students, focused initially on students with disabilities and English language learners, who cannot pass Regents exams.

The Department is seeking an initial \$8 million in state funding to develop a project-based assessment program at both the state and local level, including development of a secure online portal, help-desk support, a state scoring rubric, local scorers and test administrators, computer-based technology for test administration, and tutorial staff to provide supplemental instruction to students.

Build Technical Assistance and Support Capacity at SED

5% setaside on all new programs

Allow for proper oversight, support and technical assistance to districts

The state should enact a 5% setaside within all new programs for administrative oversight and technical assistance.

Following the end of federal grants to the Department, and following years of agency funding constraints, the Department has lost significant capacity to provide districts with implementation support and technical assistance.

Since 2011, state budgets have included new education programs for which SED has received no additional state support. As districts are faced with implementation of these various programs, they rely more and more on the technical support and expertise of the Department.

It is common in federal programs for the administering agency to be allowed a 5% setaside from grant awards to allow for proper oversight of the program.



Support Public Library Construction

2017-18 \$6.0 M Budget Request

Ensure that all New Yorkers continue to have access to state-of-the art libraries

All public libraries should be able to accommodate new technologies and provide the resources New Yorkers need to be successful in an information-driven global environment.

Despite the successes of the library construction program, the Department is seeking an additional \$6 million in state funding to support new construction, renovation, and expansion of existing public libraries throughout the state.



Increased Access to E-Books

2017-18 \$2.5 M Budget Request

Expand Access to e-Book Collections Throughout the State

In response to legislation passed last year, the Department produced a study and report related to access of e-books in public libraries. The report highlighted the continuing rise in public demand for e-books from local libraries.

The Department is seeking \$2.5 million in state funding to implement components of the report which recommended development of a statewide e-book platform, where the State Library would provide one easy-to-use location for e-book collections in multiple languages which would be accessible to all New Yorkers from their local library, school, or home.

Bridge to College and Careers Pilot Program

2017-18 \$10 M Budget Request

Supporting Independent Living Centers

2017-18 \$5 M Budget Request

Independent Living Centers (ILCs) provide an array of services that assist New Yorkers with disabilities in living fully integrated and self-directed lives. Assisting with all aspects of living, including peer counseling, independent living skills training, and additional services based on local needs.

ILCs have indicated that their ability to meet the full spectrum of needs in their communities could be jeopardized if additional funding is not provided. For over a decade state support for ILCs increased from \$3.3 million in 2005 to \$13.3 million in 2015, the impact was limited as existing programs received approximately \$10,000 in additional funds.

The Regents support an \$5 million increase to expand independent living services and supports for individuals with disabilities to live and work in their communities, while enhancing transparency that demonstrates the service needs of individuals with disabilities are being met.

State Legislative Priorities

t Legislation to create a single unified pre-kindergarten system that provides allocational funding to school districts.

t Legislation would give eligible undocumented immigrants the opportunity and access to higher education through financial assistance.

t Legislation would create a statutory index for establishing the growth in annual tuition for Special Act School Districts and Approved Private Schools Serving Students with Disabilities (853 Schools).

t Legislation would enact a series of mandate relief measures to promote cost savings and provide relief from reporting requirements.

t Legislation would create an advisory council to meet and make recommendations regarding a model to expand regional high schools in the state.

t Legislation would align existing intervention authorities with modernized approaches and align those approaches with the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

t Legislation to ensure that districts are repaid owed amounts in a more timely manner.

PISA Results - Science



PISA Results - Reading



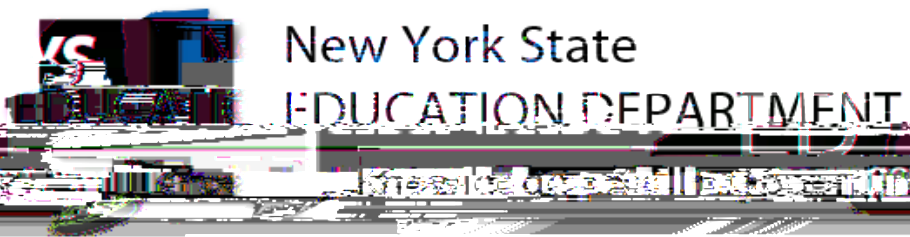
PISA Results - Mathematics



Table 2. Average scores of 15-year-olds in mathematics in the PISA

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Thank You.

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