



New York State
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Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Education

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Commissioner of Education

January 31, 2018

Regents State Aid Proposal: State Aid to Schools

Regents 2018-19 Proposal on State Aid to Schools

Recommends a \$1.6 billion total increase in school aid for the 2018-19 school year to support our schools.

- Provides \$1.25 billion in formula aid to school districts, providing a significant increase in Foundation Aid. This increase would include a new **\$85 million English language learner (ELL) setaside** within the Foundation Aid (similar to the existing Community Schools setaside enacted two years ago), to accelerate additional Foundation Aid to districts through an ELL-driven formula, and would ensure that such funds are spent consistent with meeting Part 154 of the Commissioner's regulations that govern requirements for the education of ELLs.
- The Regents State Aid Proposal also includes \$314 million in increases for reimbursement-based aid formulas for the 2018-19 school year, such as Building Aid and Transportation Aid.

Regents State Aid Proposal: Support for College and Career Pathways

College and Career Pathways (\$25 million):

- **Enhanced BOCES Aid for CTE Pathways Programs**- the instructional salary eligible for BOCES Aid has remained fixed at \$30,000 per year since 1992. Since this flat reimbursement amount has not kept pace with the actual costs to employ well-prepared teachers to run strong programs, the state has effectively reduced its direct support for these programs over time.
- To address this issue and reap the benefits of high-quality CTE programming for both students and the State's economy, the Regents recommend doubling the instructional salary ceiling to \$60,000 over the next five years, with 20 percent of the gap funded for services provided in 2018-2019, and 20 percent annually for four years thereafter.

Regents State Aid Proposal: Support for College and Career Pathways Continued

College and Career Pathways (\$25 million):

- **Enhanced & Expanded Aid for CTE Programs Operated by the Big 5 School Districts and Non-component School Districts-** the current program pays a flat per-pupil amount to the Big 5 and non-component school districts which has not been adjusted for inflation in some time. This has made it difficult for these districts to maintain quality programs. As a result, the Board recommends changing the reimbursement model for these districts to be more similar to that used for BOCES-operated programs.
- As a transition, we recommend a \$25 million increase in Special Services Aid as “seed money” so that non-BOCES component districts can begin to expand their programs in the 2018-19 school year, while they wait for reimbursement in the 2019-20 school year.

Regents State Aid Proposal: Expand Access to Early Learning

Implementing the recommendations of the **Regents Early Childhood Workgroup's Blue Ribbon Committee** would support a clear, coherent, and comprehensive strategy to ensure that all of New York State's children have the fairness of an even start and access to services that are developmentally appropriate and responsive to culture, race, ethnicity, language, citizenship status, and socioeconomic status:

\$20 million to expand the Prekindergarten

Program:

- targeting areas of highest need first, and
- phasing in additional funds over subsequent years until Prekindergarten is fully universal for **four-year-old children** in New York.



Regents 2018-19 Budget Priorities

Priority	Request
Access to High-Quality Early Education & Early Care Programs	\$17.0 M
Promote Positive School Climate & Bullying Prevention	\$10.0 M
Expand Access to Quality Higher-Level Coursework	\$3.0 M
Enhance the Achievement of ELLs	\$4.43 M
ESSA Plan: Support Newly Identified Schools	\$3.5 M
ESSA Plan: Improve Transition Services to NYS Students	\$300,000
ESSA Plan: Provide High-Quality Professional Learning	\$2.9 M
ESSA: Create a Parent-Friendly Data System	\$2.5 M
ESSA Plan: Ensure Equal Opportunities for ELLs/MLLs	\$1.6 M
ESSA Plan: Address the Shortage of Bilingual & ESOL Teachers	\$770,000
Develop Regents Exams in World Languages	\$950,000
Enhance Teacher Effectiveness- Albert Shanker Grants	\$500,000
Bridge to College & Careers Pilot Program	\$3.0 M
Support Independent Living Centers	\$5.0 M

Regents 2018-19 Budget Priorities

Priority	Request
Expand Access to Education Programs through Cultural Institutions- The Museum Education Act	\$5.0 M
State Aid for Library Construction	\$6.0 M
Expand Public Broadcasting Education Program	\$5.0 M
Build Oversight & Capacity at SED	5% setaside
Webcast Regular Board of Regents Public Meetings	\$200,000

Access to High-Quality Early Education & Early Care Programs 2018-19 \$17.0 M Budget Request

Ensure that all of NYS's Children have the Fairness of an Even Start

Recommendations of the Regents Early Childhood Work Group's Blue Ribbon Committee:

- Conduct a cost study to validate the actual cost of a high-quality prekindergarten program for all 4-year-old children with appropriate weightings for areas of economic disadvantage, emergent multilingual learners, and students with disabilities- **\$300,000**
- Establish a pilot program which targets funding for half-day and full-day 10 month and summer inclusion prekindergarten programs for 3- and 4-year olds- **\$6 million**
- Establish Early Learning Regional Technical Assistance Centers (TAC) to provide support to early care and educational settings including mental health consultation, training in the use of the Pyramid Model, and professional development on implementing high-quality early childhood education- **\$2 million**
- Provide family and community engagement coordinators in identified school communities to create program models that weave family and community influence into all levels of the educational system- **\$2 million**

Access to High-Quality Early Education & Early Care Programs Continued 2018-19 \$17.0 M Budget Request

Ensure that all of NYS's Children have the Fairness of an Even Start

Recommendations of the Regents Early Childhood Work Group's Blue Ribbon Committee:

- Expand the availability of QUALITYstarsNY throughout the State- **\$3 million**
- Adopt and implement a competency-based approach in pre-service teacher preparation programs and in-service professional development for new and existing educators and leaders to ensure all teachers are prepared to teach all students, especially as the student population continues to increase in diversity- **\$2.5 million.**
- Support the development of a unified HIPAA and FERPA compliant data system to meet the needs of children and families by tracking all screening and assessment services to capture and share relevant and useful results with parents, educators, health care organizations and other agencies- **\$500,000.**
- Support creation of a comprehensive developmental screening process for all children ages zero to eight that includes vision, hearing, physical and dental health, speech and language skills, fine and gross motor skills, social/emotional and cognitive development- **\$700,000.**

Promote Positive School Climate and Bullying Prevention

2018-19 \$10 M Budget Request

Every Child Deserves to Attend a Safe, High-Quality School and be Treated with Respect

It is critical that the State provide resources for schools to be able to assess their current environment and provide them with the assistance necessary to develop and implement a plan, derived from evidence-based strategies and best practices, for improving school culture, climate, and safety. Establish the Supportive Schools Grant Program that would:

- Establish technical assistance centers to provide leadership, technical assistance, training, and support for schools to create a positive school environment including to prevent and respond to bullying by data reporting on this issue, and ensuring/enhancing DASA compliance- **\$400,000 allotted for the Center for School Safety and \$2 million to develop an RFP for 5 additional Technical Assistance Centers (TACs);** and
- Make funds available to school districts to support the implementation/expansion of efforts in their action plans through their partnerships with the technical assistance centers. The funding would be targeted to school districts through a methodology that weights factors such as identification as Potentially or Persistently Dangerous, Struggling or Persistently Struggling, and chronic absenteeism, suspension and drop-out rates, among others. Districts would have to supplement not supplant a district's current efforts- **\$7.6 million.**

Expand Access to Quality High-Level Coursework

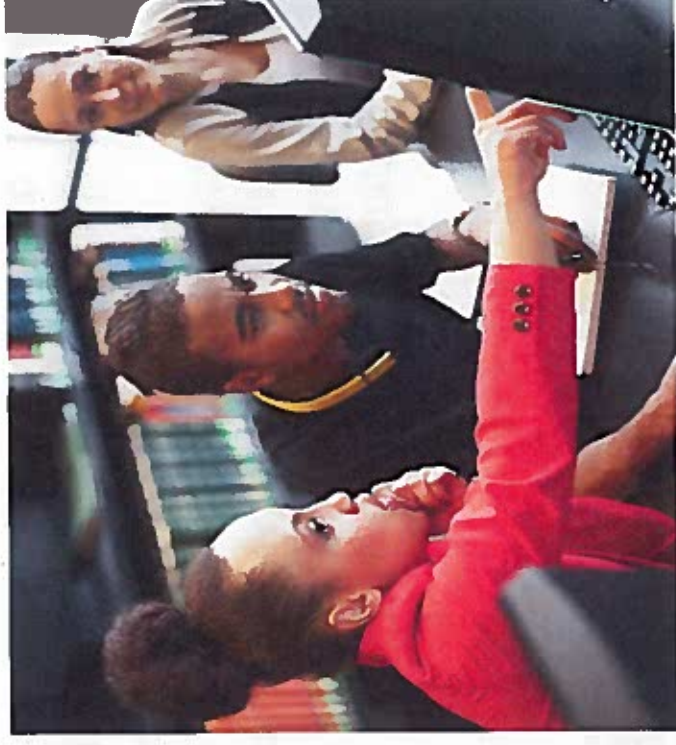
2018-19 \$3.0 M Budget Request

Increase Equity in Educational Experiences & Access for All Students to High-Level Coursework

Capitalizing on the strength of existing, successful regional online learning programs, and strategic use of funds to increase availability of Advanced Placement (AP) courses and provide no-cost access to high needs, underserved, and Big 5 public school districts. Future expansion of and support for access to all higher-level coursework, including dual enrollment and IB, is envisioned.

The coursework would be required to be:

- Taught by an appropriately NYS-Certified teacher who has received training in instructional best practices (as well as AP instruction, if applicable);
- Aligned to instructional best practice for online learning that is culturally and linguistically responsive; and
- Vetted by NYS-Certified School Building/District Leaders (or other appropriate approval).

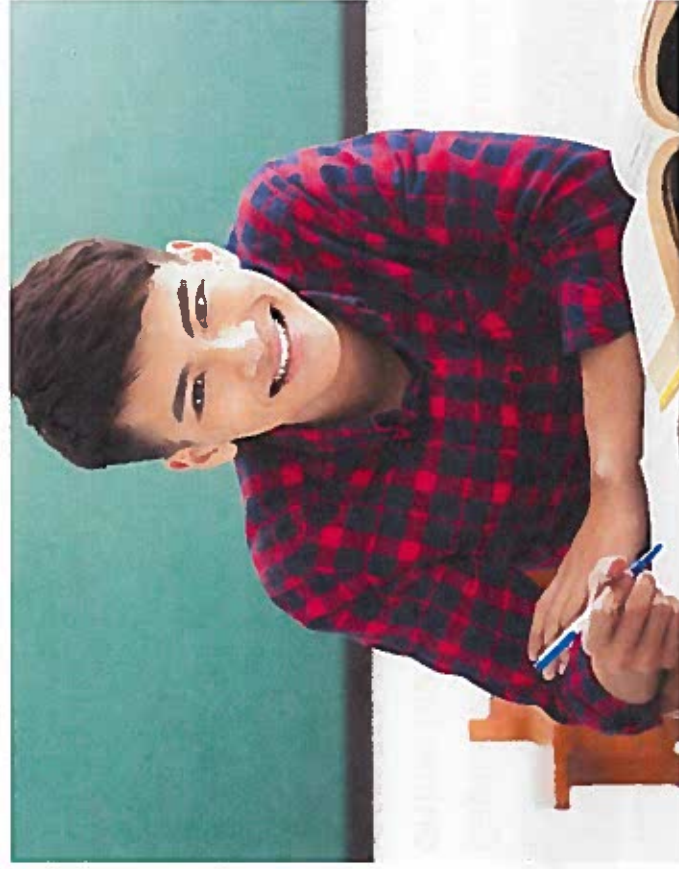


Enhance the Achievement of English Language Learners

2018-19 \$4.43 M Budget Request

Provide Educational Opportunities for New York's Diverse Student Population

New funding would support a Spanish Language Arts test development (\$3.43 million) and translation of all required state assessments into the State's eight most common home foreign languages (\$1 million).



- Over the past 10 years, the state's English language learner student enrollment has increased by 20 percent, and these students now make up over 8 percent of New York's student population.

- In order to provide English language learners with the opportunity and resources to demonstrate achievement of higher standards, the Department is seeking funding to develop and implement a Spanish Language Arts test, beginning with students in Grades 3 through 5.

- In addition, the Department is seeking to offer translations of all required state assessments to better inform educators about students' knowledge and abilities.

ESSA Plan: Support Newly Identified Schools

2018-19 \$3.5 M Budget Request

Help Schools & Districts Identify School-Specific Solutions Based on their Current Needs



The Every Students Succeed Act (ESSA) identified a number of new federal requirements for how states work with struggling schools. Identified schools must undergo a Needs Assessment and use the results of such to inform their improvement plan and include an evidence-based intervention as part of it. SED provides oversight and support for Comprehensive Supports and Improvement (CSI) schools, which are schools in the bottom 5 percent in NYS. The local school district oversees the improvement process of Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI) schools.

Funding would allow us to:

- Contract with school improvement experts to lead on-site Needs Assessments at 300 Comprehensive Supports and Improvement schools in 2018-19;
- Facilitate training to school districts with TSI schools so that districts can conduct Needs Assessments in all TSI schools in 2018-19; and
- Facilitate training on Evidence-Based Interventions so that TSI and CSI schools can learn strategies to ensure that their school improvement plans are research-based and implemented strategically.

ESSA Plan: Improve Transition Services to NYS Students at Neglected & Delinquent Facilities

2018-19 \$300,000 Budget Request

Support Youth in Their Successful Re-entry into School, College or Careers

US Department of Education data shows that 43% of youth in a juvenile detention facility did not return to school after release, and another 16% enrolled in school, but dropped out after over five months. In NYS, students are served in no less than 12 different types of neglected and delinquent facilities (more than 350 facilities total) that serve approximately 20,000 students under the purview of the: State Education Department, Office of Children & Family Services, Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Department of Corrections & Community Supervision.

Many of these facilities do not consistently use curricula aligned with our NYS standards, which can result in credit transfer issues, and they can provide different levels of education services based on inconsistencies in various legislative and regulatory mandates.

- This funding would allow for the contracting of an independent, third-party vendor to conduct an evaluation of current policies, procedures and practices related to transition into, among, and out of neglected and delinquent facilities under the purview of the agencies list above and generate a report detailing key findings and recommendation. Based on this evaluation, agency staff would identify standardized criteria to be included in a formal transition protocol utilized by all facilities in NYS.

ESSA Plan: Provide High-Quality Professional Learning 2018-19 \$2.9 M Budget Request

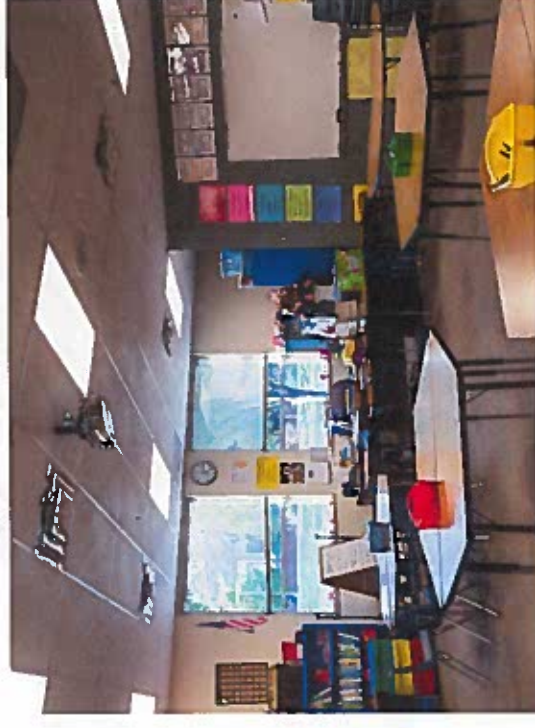
Streamline Professional Learning Efforts to Leverage NY's Professional Learning Providers

New York State's new professional learning strategy will achieve two goals to meet the needs of all educators:

- Equitable access for all educators – providing consistent and high-quality supports and tools directly to educators
- Leveraging our strongest professional learning leaders to establish centers of expertise, where high-quality professional learning opportunities can flourish and be scaled up to the rest of the state

The Statewide Supports goal includes three strategies:

- Improve coordination and communication of professional learning efforts
- Provide high-quality supports and tools for all educators
- Expectations for BOCES District Superintendents and other partners regarding their role in implementing high-quality professional learning

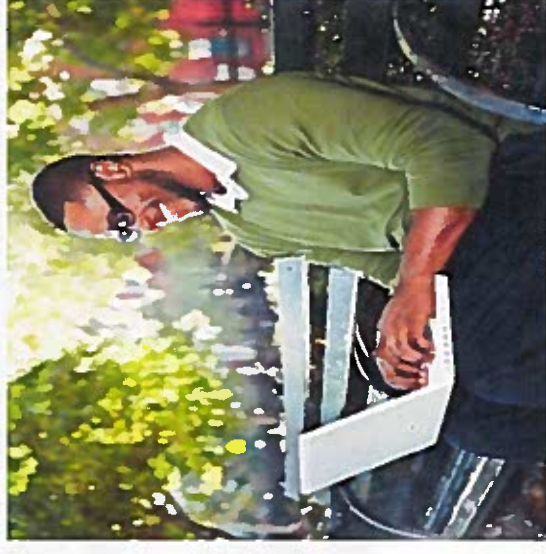


ESSA Plan: Create a Parent-friendly Data System

2018-19 \$2.5 M Budget Request

Provide Parents Access to Easy to Understand Education Data

The Every Students Succeed Act (ESSA) requires that New York appropriately develop, collect, analyze and report new data elements; develop, maintain and provide ongoing enhancements for additional reporting requirements; and create a new parent-friendly data system to report data elements, such as chronic absenteeism and the college and career readiness index.



- This funding would allow for data collection and reporting for all new data elements associated with NY's ESSA plan, including the creation of a parent-friendly data system.
- The development would be implemented over a 3-year period, with additional costs in Year 2 (\$4.4 million) and Year 3 and ongoing (\$1.9 million) and would include working with the Department's Chief Privacy Officer to ensure that the privacy of students' personally identifiable information is protected in compliance with state and federal law.

ESSA Plan: Ensure Equal Opportunities for ELLs/MLLs

2018-19 \$1.6 M Budget Request

Expand Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) Supports

New York State currently funds eight Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) support centers, with seven RBERNs assigned to geographic zones and one Statewide Language RBERN, to provide and conduct professional development, technical assistance and compliance support.

The goal of this proposal is to expand RBERNs' ability to support Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to increase the English language proficiency and academic content gains of English language learners/Multilingual learners (ELLs/MLLs), as well as to reduce dropout rates and increase graduation rates. These activities are critical to New York State's ability to meet ESSA mandates, because ELLs/MLLs' timely acquisition of English language proficiency and ELL/MLL subgroup performance will be critical factors in state accountability determinations. In addition, this proposal will enable each RBERN to develop culturally responsive and linguistically accessible resources for ELL/MLL parents, so that LEAs can better support and assist such parents.

- This new funding will allow each RBERN to hire dedicated staff to direct and oversee their professional development, technical assistance and compliance support. It is crucial that the Department assists LEAs in transforming and improving systems to support the success of ELL/MLL students

ESSA Plan: Address the Shortage of Bilingual & ESOL Teachers

2018-19 \$770,000 Budget Request

Ensure Schools Have Appropriately Certified/Qualified Bilingual & ESOL Teachers



Currently, over 250,000 English language learners/Multilingual learners (ELLs/MLLs) make up over 8 percent of the total New York State student population, and speak over 200 native/home languages.

The Clinically Rich Intensive Teacher Institute (CR-ITI) program provides graduate students the opportunity to receive certification in English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and/or to complete the requirements for the Bilingual Extension (BE). The program's objective is to supply LEAs with highly qualified and certified teachers to serve their ELL/MLL population. A shortage of properly certified BE and ESOL education teachers continues to be a challenge across NYS.

- This funding would allow for the creation of new CR-ITI programs at seven institutions at the cost of \$110,000 per year (\$770,000 total), for two consecutive years, for a grand total of \$1.54 million. Each program would train twenty new teachers per year for a combined total of 140 teachers per year (a total of 280 teachers trained over the course of the two years).

Develop Regents Exams in World Languages

2018-19 \$950,000 Budget Request

Enhance Opportunities for Students to Better Demonstrate What They Know

For well over a century, the Department developed and oversaw the administration of Regents Exams in World Languages to provide a uniformly high-standard for instruction in the tested languages in high schools across the New York. Unfortunately, due to state budget cuts, these exams had to be discontinued in the 2011-12 school year.

The lack of these exams has limited graduation options under the Regents Multiple Pathways “4+1” option.

- The Department is seeking \$950,000 in state funding (for year 1 of a 5-year plan) to resume Regents Exams in the four World Languages (Spanish, French, Chinese (simplified), and Italian) that are taught most frequently in New York high schools.



Enhance Teacher Effectiveness

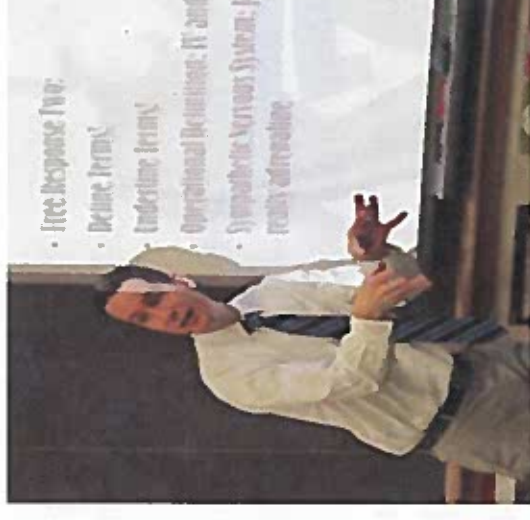
2018-19 \$500,000 Budget Request

Expand the Albert Shanker Grant to Provide Assistance to Public School Teachers in NYS

The Albert Shanker National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Grant Program (Shanker Grant) was established in 1999 to encourage teachers to pursue National Board certification by supporting eligible NYS public school teachers with the fee for National Board certification and supportive services for districts.

The certification process allows teachers to hone their practice, showcase their talent in the classroom, and demonstrate dedication to their students and profession. The cost of this (\$1,900 for each teacher) deters many educators from participating in the National Board process, though interest has been on the rise and is anticipated to grow again in the upcoming year.

- This funding would expand the Albert Shanker grant to provide assistance to public school teachers in New York in seeking National Board certification.



Bridge to College and Careers Pilot Program

2018-19 \$3 M Budget Request

Enable Out-of-School Youth and Adults to Prepare for Postsecondary Study and Careers

- Bridge programs enable out-of-school youth and adults to obtain critical basic skills, a high school equivalency diploma, and industry-recognized credentials.



- The Department requests \$3 million in funding to create a Bridge to College and Career Pilot Program consisting of partnerships between adult education programs and college or training providers in each of the seven Regional Adult Education Network regions of the state.

- These programs would include:
 - Career exploration and career assessment;
 - Relationships with employers and colleges; and
 - Apprenticeships and internships.



Support Independent Living Centers

2018-19 \$5 M Budget Request

Expand Services for Adults with Disabilities

- 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, learning and earning, ILC's provide a wide range of services including information and referral, 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 ILC's remained flat at \$12.3 million each year. Though the ILC network received a \$1 million increase in 2015 to \$13.3 million, the impact was limited as existing programs received approximately \$10,000 in additional funds.
- The Regents support a \$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.**

Pass the Museum Education Act

2018-19 \$5 M Budget Request

Expand Access to Education Programs Through Cultural Institutions

More than 1,500 museums, historical societies, zoos, botanical gardens, aquariums, and cultural arts institutions across NYS provide instruction to over six million children. These cultural institutions receive no direct state support to initiate, expand, and enhance educational services through access to museum collections, scholarship and virtual learning.

Students living in low-income communities in urban, suburban, or rural settings benefit from having access to the type of learning provided by cultural institutions. Fair and equal access to these types of institutions will provide enhanced learning opportunities for students.

Enactment of the Museum Education Act (S.1676-A Little/A.3892 Titone)

- Funding would establish a competitive grants program to support cultural institutions that seek to establish or improve museum education programs designed to support student learning opportunities, including the development of local curricular aids.



Support Public Library Construction

2018-19 \$6 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.



Summer Reading at New York Libraries is an annual program that brings children and families into local public libraries for reading and activities. Over 2 million New York children and teens participated in the State Library-sponsored program in 2017.

Expand Public Broadcasting Education Programs

2018-19 \$5 M Budget Request

Support the Enterprise America & GPS for Success Programs

The Enterprise America program is a "model city" that students run for a day. In this hands-on learning environment students are taught: civic responsibility through holding and voting in elections; entrepreneurship by running and owning businesses including applying for business loans and negotiating service costs; and financial literacy through enrolling in health insurance, earning salaries, contributing to charity, and paying for everyday expenses such as lunch and shopping using Enterprise America dollars. Students and teachers can take the lessons and curriculum back to the classroom for further evaluation and analysis. To roll out this program statewide, each public television station would develop its own model city.

GPS for Success is a multi-platform webpage that includes educational and training roadmap videos and web content for high school and post-high school students that is presented in career clusters identified locally as experiencing a shortage of skilled workers entering the workforce and in fields that are determined will be in-demand careers in the next five to ten years. This resource is developed in collaboration with the regional BOCES, business leaders, and other stakeholders. With additional funding each public television station will develop its own videos and content based on the need in each region of New York State.

Build Technical Assistance and Support Capacity at SED

5% Setaside

Resources to Provide Proper Oversight & Support of New Programs

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

- Following the end of federal grants to the Department, and 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.

Webcast Regular Board of Regents Public Meetings

2018-19 \$200,000 Budget Request

Enhance Transparency at the Department

With current limited resources, the Department is only able to provide a live webcast of meetings of the Full Board of Regents. In order to increase transparency and provide public accessibility to important education-related discussions and determinations made at such meetings, it is important that the Department is able to webcast other regular public meetings of the Board of Regents, including each month's Committee and Subcommittee meetings, as well as provide for the verbatim transcript for such meetings which is currently done for all Full Board meetings.

Regents 2018 State Legislative Priorities

Tuition Rate Setting Methodology – 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) as well as authorize these schools to establish a general reserve fund.

Mandate Relief and Flexibility – Legislation would enact a series of mandate relief measures to promote cost savings and provide relief from reporting requirements including the additional provisions to:

- o ensure that districts are repaid owed amounts in a more timely manner;
- o create a waiver process, pursuant to Commissioner’s review and within defined parameters, for the penalty associated with the late filing of transportation contracts; and
- o increase the current statutory cap (\$100,000) on school district smaller capital projects where the district provides the capital outlay and building aid is provided up front.

Regional Secondary Schools Advisory Council– Legislation would create an advisory council to meet and make recommendations regarding a model to expand regional high schools in the state.

Tenure and Seniority Protections for Bilingual /ESOL Teachers/TAs – Legislation to require districts, in an event of the abolition of a position, to consider bilingual/ESOL instruction needs.

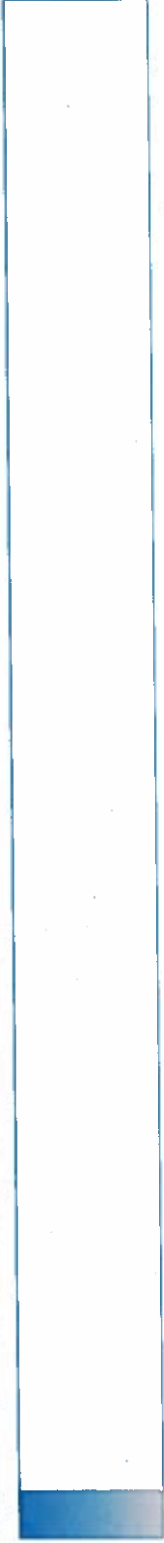
Increase Access to College & Reduce the Cost to Students through ECHS & PTECH– Legislation would codify and provide support to Early College High Schools (ECHS) and PTECH programs.



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2018 Regents Budget & Legislative Priority Proposals:
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