



New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents

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Executive Secretary

Summary 2023-24 Enacted State Budget Monday, May 1, 2023

The \$229.8 billion state budget for state fiscal year 2023-24 is some \$2 billion more than originally proposed by Governor Hochul. The budget agreement adds \$2.6 billion in aid to public schools fulfilling the commitment of lawmakers to fully fund foundation aid for public schools. The agreement also includes a compromise on charter schools which will permit 22 charter schools (14 in New York City) that were previously authorized but had ceased operating, to be reissued as new charter schools. Outlined below is my initial summary of state spending levels for programs benefiting students in religious and independent schools.

STEM: Lawmakers increased spending by \$15 million (26 percent) for a total of \$73 million to reimburse schools for a portion of the salaries of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math teachers.

Mandated Services Aid (MSA) and Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP): Although the Governor proposed maintaining funding at \$193,128,000 for a third year in a row, the legislature added \$1.9 million to help ensure funding is sufficient to fully reimburse schools. Thankfully, the legislature also rejected Governor Hochul's proposal to eliminate the state's commitment to fully reimburse schools for their mandated expenses.

Immunization: The Legislature also restored \$1 million, which was not included in the Governor's proposal, to reimburse our schools located in Buffalo, Rochester, and New York City for expenses in complying with the state's immunization program.

Health, Safety & Security: Lawmakers maintain funding at \$45 million, to support health and safety projects, including a new authorization to cover critical repair and maintenance and other capital needs of religious and independent school facilities.

Academic Intervention Services: Maintained at \$922,000 with \$1.84 million available annually to spend down prior year appropriations.

Learning Technology Grants: proposed to be maintained at \$3.29 million.

School Nutrition Programs: The legislature added \$134 million to provide free meals for all students in schools that have at least 40 percent of students already eligible for free/reduced price meals. In addition, \$10 million is maintained to cover the State share of reimbursing schools up to \$0.25 per meal for any school that purchases at least 30 percent of the food for its lunch program from New York farmers and growers; and \$2.3 million in continued to support student meal costs.

Arts & Music: Although the Senate proposed \$5 million for salary reimbursement of art and music teachers in our schools, the proposal was not included in the agreed-upon budget.

SCAHC: Funding for at-risk not-for-profit facilities increased by \$10 million exclusively for reproductive health centers. The original \$25 million for religious and independent schools and programs is maintained under the *Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes* program.

UPK: Lawmakers continued support for expansion of full-day four-year-old pre-k children served by districts either directly and through contracts with community providers (including religious and independent schools). They also require school districts to provide data to SED on the extent to which they are unable to serve four-year olds.

State Office of Religious and Independent Schools: SORIS funding is maintained at \$1,461,000 to support the work of SORIS including that related to enforcement of the “substantial equivalency” provisions of the education law and Department regulations.

School Bus Driver Training: proposed to be maintained at \$400,000, including training for religious and independent school bus drivers.

Teacher Centers: Funding is restored to \$21.4 million, including participation of religious and independent school teachers.

Instructional Material Aid: Lawmakers rejected SED’s proposal to shift the loaning of all instructional materials to the district in which a student resides (as it has always been for textbooks). The aid amounts remain unchanged:

Textbook Aid: \$58.25 per pupil

Software Aid: \$14.98 per pupil

Hardware Aid: Average of \$12 per pupil

Library Materials: \$6.25 per pupil

Re-Appropriations: All re-appropriations of unspent state and federal funds from prior years appear to have been maintained by lawmakers, including the Federal *Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS)*. In addition, lawmakers adopted our recommended language affirming that federal Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools funds will remain available to reimburse religious and independent schools for allowable pandemic-related costs should any such funds revert to the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund.

Minimum Wage: Lawmakers have enacted scheduled increases in the minimum wage per the following schedule. Based on the upstate/downstate regions, all employers regardless of the number of employees, shall pay their employees an hourly rate of no less than:

For NYC, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties

- \$16.00 on and after January 1, 2024,
- \$16.50 on and after January 1, 2025,
- \$17.00 on and after January 1, 2026.

For all other counties

- \$15.00 on and after January 1, 2024,
- \$15.50 on and after January 1, 2025,
- \$16.00 on and after January 1, 2026.

Annual mandatory increases beginning January 1, 2027 (for all employers in the state) will be determined, in part, by the rate of increase of the Consumer Price Index, unless the CPI rate change is negative or there is an increase in certain unemployment numbers/rates.