

March 6rd, 2023

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

We are encouraged that Governor Hochul's FY24 Executive Budget includes funding for the third and full phase-in of the 2007 Foundation Aid Formula. We are looking forward to seeing 100% of the Foundation Aid as part of the enacted budget.

There is, however, one other item that the Governor's proposal did not include: the State Education Department request for an allocation of \$1 million to contract with education researchers and engage stakeholders to review the State's Foundation Aid Formula. In the sixteen years since the Foundation Aid Formula was enacted, New York State curriculum standards have evolved; the student population has changed; and other changes impacting resources have occurred. But the base costs and weights in the Formula have not been revised to reflect this.

The Regents' request contemplates engaging expert researchers and soliciting input from schools, advocacy groups, stakeholders and school funding experts across the state. This input is vital so that the Formula is revised in a manner that reflects the most up-to-date methodology and the values and needs of communities across New York State. Updating the Formula is imperative in order to keep pace with the current cost of education, so that every student in New York state is afforded the opportunity for a sound basic education. Therefore, we urge you to include these essential funds in your one house budget.

We respectfully urge you to fulfill the promise New York made to every public school student over a decade ago to provide the opportunity for a sound basic education that is responsive both to their needs and the demands of today's world.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Advocates For Children
Alliance for Quality Education
Association of School Business Officials of New York
Citizen Action of New York
Class Size Matters
D28 Action for Equity
Education Law Center
Gathering for Justice
League of Women Voters of New York State
New York Communities for Change
New York State United Teachers
NYS Council of School Superintendents
NYS Parent Teacher Association
NYS School Boards Association
The Children's Agenda