

2025-2026 Initial Budget Presentation





LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Zero Emission Bus Overhaul

- State-funded Implementation and Feasibility Study
- Revise 100% Requirement
- Independent Verification of Range
- Price Caps
- Utility Company Challenges



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Student Health and Mental Health

- Adequately Fund Student Mental and Physical Health
- Telehealth Expansion
- Medicaid Reimbursable Services



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Enhance Student Safety

- Allocate Dedicated Funds to School Safety
- Implement Multi-Year Waivers for Schools to Employ Retired Law Enforcement
- Bail for Violent Threats



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

School Staffing and Civil Service

- 211-Waiver Extension
- Age 63 to Work Without an Earning Limitation
- Transition Provisional Employees to Probationary Employees (after 9 months without a test)



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Support Career and Technical Education

- Increase the portion of CTE Instructional Salary that is aidable from \$30,000 to \$60,000 over next 3 years
- Need New Tier of BOCES and Special Services Aid



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Universal Prekindergarten

- Transportation
- UPK Lottery
- Eliminate 10% CBO Set-aside
- Funding for 3 and 4-year olds



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Additional Items:

- Increase Capital Outlay Authority
- Support for ELL



2025-26 EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR AID TO EDUCATION

On January 21st, Governor Hochul presented her proposal for the 2025-26 State Budget.

- Proposing a total of \$37,365.42 million in state support for public schools.
- The \$37,365.42 million amount is made up of: \$36,901.90 million in formula-based aids, \$463.53 million in categorical aids and grant programs.
- A 4.75% increase over the 2024-25 State Budget for school aid. Her proposal continues all expense driven aids formulas.



**2025-26 Executive Budget Estimates of General Support for Public Schools for the
Niagara-Wheatfield Central School District**

	2024-25	2025-26	Change	%
Foundation Aid	\$24,998,294	\$27,242,251	\$2,243,957	8.98%
Expense-based Aids				
Building Aid	\$3,796,177	\$4,185,176	\$388,999	10.25%
Transportation Aid*	\$4,106,304	\$4,266,453	\$160,149	3.90%
BOCES Aid	\$3,152,576	\$3,448,663	\$296,087	9.39%
Public High Cost Excess Cost Aid	\$811,447	\$668,841	(\$142,606)	-17.57%
Private Excess Cost Aid	\$1,321,054	\$1,307,215	(\$13,839)	-1.05%
Special Services Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Instructional Materials Aids				
Software Aid	\$58,183	\$58,033	(\$150)	-0.26%
Hardware & Technology Aid	\$62,976	\$62,344	(\$632)	-1.00%
Textbook Aid	\$206,963	\$206,380	(\$583)	-0.28%
Library Materials Aid	\$24,275	\$24,213	(\$62)	-0.26%
Other Operating Aids				
Academic Enhancement Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Charter School Transitional Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
High Tax Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Supplemental Public Excess Cost Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Aid for Recent Consolidations				
Operating Reorganization Incentive Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Building Reorganization Incentive Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A
Subtotal	\$38,538,249	\$41,469,569	\$2,931,320	7.61%



Expense Driven Aids – No formula aid changes proposed for any of the following aids:

- Building Aid/Reorganization Incentive Building Aid – \$3,334.89 million (\$111.84 million decrease)
- Transportation Aid Including Summer Transportation Aid – \$2,673.83 million (\$135.19 million increase)
- BOCES Aid – \$1,313.29 million (\$0.51 million increase)
- Software, Textbook & Library Materials Aids – \$225.51 million (\$4.33 million increase)
- Computer Hardware and Technology Aid – \$35.17 million (\$1.25 million increase)
- Supplemental Public Excess Cost Aid – \$4.31 million (\$0 change)
- Special Services Aid – \$245.96 million (\$4.00 million increase)
- Academic Enhancement Aid – \$9.57 million (\$0 change)
- High Tax Aid – \$233.30 million (\$0 change)
- Charter School Transitional Aid – \$60.62 million (\$9.37 million increase)
- Public High-Cost Excess Cost Aid – \$631.33 million (\$1.85 million increase)
- Private Excess Cost Aid – \$518.75 million (\$42.84 million increase).



Universal Prekindergarten Aid – \$1,210.99 million (\$143.01 million increase)

The 2025-26 Executive Budget recommends \$1,210.99 million in funding for this program, bringing the estimated number of four-year-old pupils with access to publicly funded prekindergarten to over 148,000 students statewide, or about 95 percent of the State's estimated "universal" target population. This funding includes \$428.36 million for the Statewide Universal Full-Day Prekindergarten (SUFPK) program.



Preschool Special Education (§4410) – \$1,092.00 million (\$57 million increase)

These funds will support the State's 59.5% share of the costs of education for three- and four-year old children with disabilities.

Similar to 2024-25, prior year claims on file with the SED as of March 31, 2025, will receive payment priority.

Any remaining claims for which there is insufficient appropriation authority to pay in 2025-26 will receive priority status for payment in 2026-27



Universal Free School Meals – \$340.00 million (\$160.00 million increase to CEP State Subsidy)

Under this current program 90% of New York State's 2.75 million students are currently receiving free meals. The Universal Free School Meals program would continue to subsidize the local share of costs for all public and nonpublic schools participating in the CEP program. Additionally, this proposal would pay the student's share of costs for all meals served to students that are not entitled to receive free school meals because of their attendance at schools which are not eligible to participate in the CEP program based on current federal rules. The proposed funding for this program would allow the remaining 10% of students which are not already receiving free meals to eat for free.



Distraction-Free Schools – \$13.50 million

The Distraction Free School proposal would limit smartphones and other internet-enabled devices not provided by the school district for educational purposes from being used on school grounds during the school hours of operation. This includes smartphones, smartwatches, or other devices capable of connecting to the internet which would allow users to access social media applications and other internet content.



College in High School Opportunity Fund – \$64.58 million

The proposed College in High School Opportunity Fund would provide \$52.38 million for the Smart Scholars, Smart Transfer, and Pathways in Technology Early High School Programs and \$12.20 million for the College in High School Programs.

Charter Schools – \$190 million

The proposal under the 2025-26 Executive Budget would continue the Supplemental Basic Tuition Reimbursement Program and reimburse a portion of charter school tuition costs for school districts generally at \$1,000 per pupil.

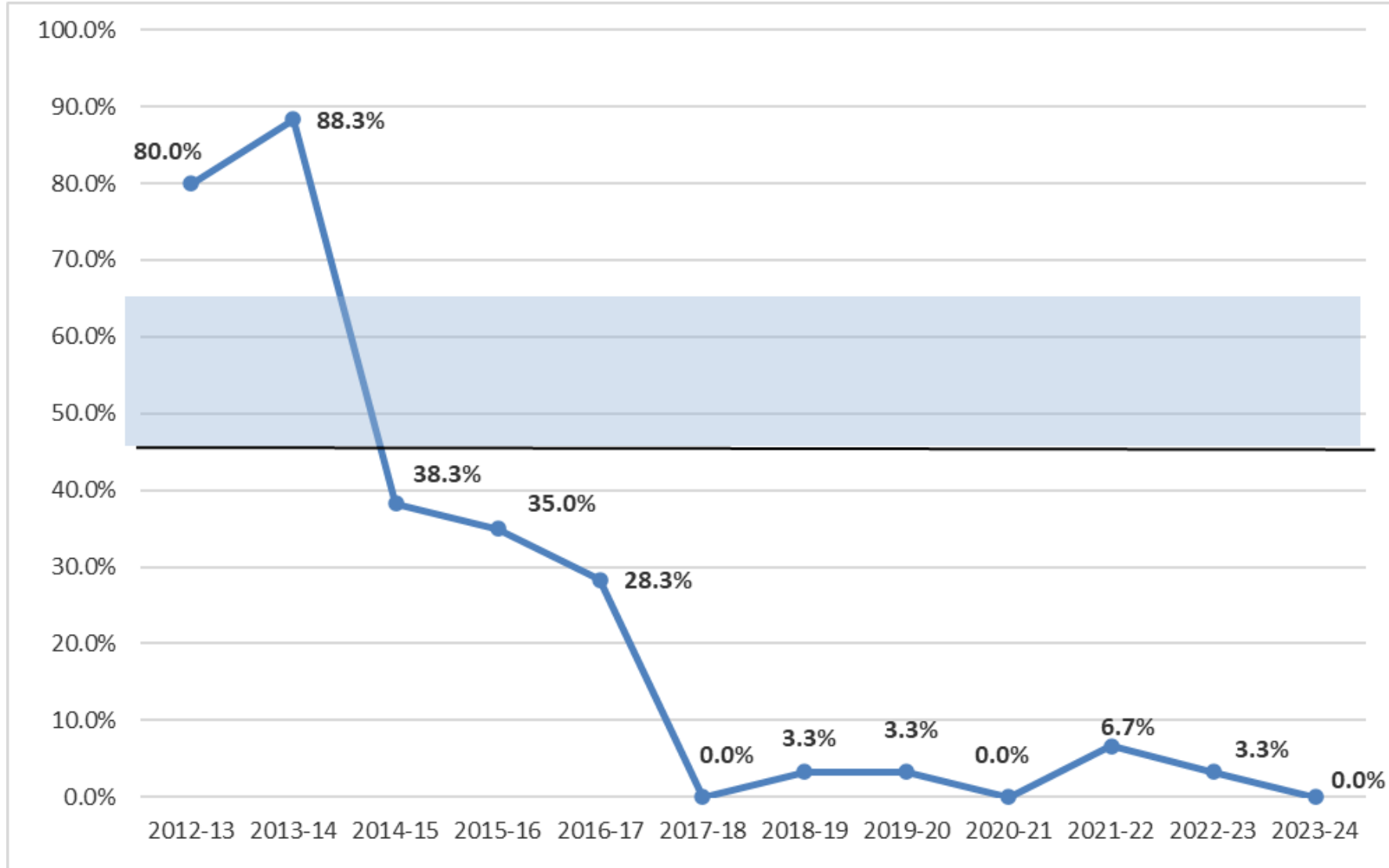


State Aid Database Freeze and Elimination of Prior Year Claims

This proposal would prohibit the Commissioner of Education from making payments on aid claims other than those claims that districts are entitled to within the Governor's Proposal Database and eliminate prior year claims made for payments prior to the 2025-26 year to no later than June 30, 2025.



Fiscal Stress



Thank You

