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1. In December 2019, the New York State Board of Regents called for a \$2 billion increase in Foundation Aid for the 2020-21 school year to support a minimum one percent increase for all districts and pre-kindergarten expansion and inclusion pilot programs. In addition, the Board advanced a bold and comprehensive set of funding proposals to best meet the needs of every student in New York by achieving Equity, supporting Early Childhood Learning and English language learners, implementing New York's Every Student Succeeds Act plan, and enhancing efficiency within the State Education Department and school districts statewide. The Regents proposed \$2 billion in additional investments in education, with \$1.9 billion in aid formula increases, \$82 million in statutory reimbursement-based aid increases, and \$26 million for pre-kindergarten expansion and inclusion pilot. Most importantly, the proposal would put the state on a committed path to fully phasing-in the Foundation Aid formula.

Foundation Aid: To provide stability and predictability in the Foundation Aid formula, the Regents State Aid Proposal continues to call for the full phase-in of the formula over a three-year period by the 2022-23 school year, with the restoration of a previously-used inflationary factor that will help stabilize fluctuations in aid levels due to changes in fixed costs. These changes would provide a total of \$4.7 billion in additional annual Foundation Aid statewide over the next three years, achieved through a combination of targeted increases. These include a percentage phase-in increase for all districts that have a remaining phase-in and a minimum one percent increase for all districts.

Statutory Reimbursement-based Aids: Consistent with existing law and the most recent claims submitted by school districts to the Department, the Regents State Aid Proposal also includes \$82 million in increases for reimbursement-based aid formulas for the 2020-21 school year, such as Transportation Aid (\$102 million), BOCES Aid (\$11 million), Private Excess Cost Aid for special education services (\$28 million), offset by claims-based decreases in Building Aid, High Cost Public Excess Cost Aid, and other aids (totaling negative \$59 million).

Pre-kindergarten Expansion and Inclusion Pilot (\$26 million): The Board of Regents has long supported the expansion of Universal Prekindergarten programs across the state, and the Board's Early Childhood Blue Ribbon Committee has developed a robust series of recommendations to promote high-quality early childhood education programs. After years of advocacy by the Board, the state consolidated multiple pre-kindergarten programs into two programs, with total support now approaching \$900 million. To continue this expansion, the Regents State Aid Proposal would include a total of \$26 million for further expansion of programs for four-year-olds.

First, \$20 million would allow for the program to serve an additional 2,000 children. This would bring the percentage of New York State four-year-olds receiving state-funded Pre-kindergarten programming to nearly 70 percent. Second, \$6 million would be provided for pilot programs which will target half- and full-day 10-month and summer inclusion pre-kindergarten programs for three- and four-year-olds. Funds would be blended and layered with existing pre-kindergarten and preschool special education funding under a single reimbursement structure for preschool inclusion. The pilot funding would support classrooms comprised of both preschool students with and without disabilities under a comprehensive and consolidated funding structure so that these classrooms could be treated as one program serving all students.

The Board's full [State Aid Proposal](#) can be found on the Department's website.

2. Statement from Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa and Interim State Education Commissioner Shannon Tahoe on Governor Cuomo's State of the State Address

Governor Cuomo's State of the State address contained several proposals that will benefit New York's students and adults. At a time when many local employers are working to find qualified employees, the Governor's proposal to establish the state's first regional high school and worker training center that focuses on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) will create a much-needed pipeline for trained students and adults who are equipped to fill these jobs.

The Governor's support for expanding early college high school training programs and expanding apprenticeships across the state will help ensure that our students are first in line for jobs in the field where they have worked or studied. We are also encouraged by the proposed increase of up to 12 additional Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) programs.

Expansion of Universal Pre-Kindergarten and support for afterschool programs, as well as making college affordable for more middle-class families will help to increase equitable access to education for those most in need. We also applaud the Governor's commitment to ensuring that each and every New Yorker is counted in the 2020 Census.

We are further encouraged that the Governor focused on increasing teacher diversity, expanding opportunity programs for our students, and the creation of a mental health education and training competitive grant program for districts.

The Board of Regents has long supported increasing state aid for all schools, especially for those that serves our most at-risk students. While we are pleased the Governor recognizes the need for increased support for our high-need schools, we must ensure all schools have the resources they need to provide a high-quality education for all New York students.