engage ny

Our Students. Their Moment.

2015-16 Enacted State Budget

NYS Board of Regents

April 13, 2015

Overview

The enacted budget provides a $1.4 billion, or 5.9%, increase in state aid to school districts for a total of $23.35 billion.

This includes a $1.3 billion increase in additional general support for public schools (GSPS) as follows:

- $603.1 million Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) Restoration
- $428.2 million Foundation Aid increase
- $268.6 million increase in statutorily-based Expense-based aids

Additional Grants/Allocations

In addition to the $1.3 billion increase for GSPS, the enacted budget provides $122 million for the following initiatives:

- $75 million for Persistently Failing Schools Transformation Grants
- $30 million in grants to expand prekindergarten for 3- and 4-year olds in high-needs districts
- $5 million for an additional round of Master Teacher Program
- $3 million for a Teacher Residency Program
- $3 million for a Masters-in-Education Incentive Scholarship Program
- $3 million for QUALITYstarsNY, the state's early learning quality rating and improvement system
- $3 million for a third round of P-TECH grants

Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA)

The $603.1 million restoration of the GEA leaves a remaining GEA of $443.6 million, restoring statewide 58% of the 2014-15 GEA.

The GEA was at its largest in 2011-12 at $2.6 billion.

Comparison to Regents Proposal

The enacted budget's $1.3 billion increase in GSPS tracks closely with the Regents' proposed $1.39 billion increase in operating aids:

Aid Category	2015-16 Regents State Aid Proposal	2015-16 Enacted Budget
Foundation Aid	**$526 million**	**$428 million**
GEA Restoration	**$597 million**	**$603 million**
Expense-based Aids	**$267 million**	**$269 million**

However, the enacted budget does not include the Regents targeted investments, including CTE funding, Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (STLE) grants, support for English Language Learners, unaccompanied minors, enrollment growth, or a consolidated prekindergarten program.

Eligibility for State Aid Increases

The enacted budget requires that in order for districts to receive their current and future state aid increases, they must have a new evaluation plan approved by the Department by November 15, 2015.

Other Provisions

Settlement Funds

- The enacted budget does not include any of the Regents proposed education-related uses of the state's settlement funds, nor did it include any uses that were education-related.

Statewide Universal Full Day Prekindergarten

- While no additional funding was included, the program was formally extended into the 2016-17 school year.
- New York City will be able to re-apply for up to $40 million in funding originally used as supplemental start-up grants to reprogram for new slots.
- $1.7 million in unused funds for programs outside of New York City will be reallocated.

Higher Education Opportunity Programs

The enacted budget includes an additional $8.9 million for the higher education opportunity and access programs, $2.9 million above the Regents request of $6 million.

Program	Change
Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)	+$1.3 million
Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)	+$3.9 million
Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP)	+$2 million
Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)	+$1.7 million

The enacted budget will implement a Regents legislative priority to allow students with disabilities who are eligible for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), attend college part-time and meet minimum GPA requirements to continue to receive their TAP awards as they progress academically.

Aid to Localities

The Enacted Budget contains changes to the following programs:

Program	Change
Educational TV and Radio	+$500,000
Public Libraries	+$5 million
Independent Living Centers	+$1 million
Bilingual Education	+$1 million
Non-Public Schools	+$12.6 million*
Preschool Special Education	-$22.5 million
Summer School Special Education	+$2 million
4201 Schools	+$2.3 million
Charter Schools	+25 million

* Includes a $4.7 million increase for Mandated Services Aid and a $7.9 million increase for Comprehensive Attendance Policy.

State Operations

The enacted budget provides new operations funding for implementation of the new teacher and principal evaluation system ($1 million) and to the office of facilities ($800,000) to address backlogs in project approvals due to decreased capacity.

In addition, the enacted budget:

- Continues funding to support the baseline Regents exams program for all Regents exams offered in the current school year at $8.5 million.
- Continues funding of $4.2 million for the High School Equivalency program.
- Continues all other State Operations and Special Revenue Account support at 2014-15 levels.
- Executive budget FTE level is 2,692. The Department is currently below this level and is actively working with program offices to fill up to this level.

Comparison to Regents Proposals

The enacted budget does not include the Regents funding requests for:

- Assessments-Reduce Testing Time - $8.4 million
- Enhancing the Achievement of English Language Learners - $14.75 million
- Early Learning Support - $676,000
- Adult Education-Workforce Preparation - $5.0 million
- State Aid Modeling - $2.0 million
- Erasure Analysis of Test Results - $500,000
- Public Library Construction - $2.8 million