



- Agudath Israel of America
- Association of Christian Schools International
- Jewish Education Project
- Lutheran Schools Association
- NYS Association of Independent Schools
- NYS Catholic Conference

2018-19 Enacted State Budget

Friday, March 30, 2018: Lawmakers gave final passage to the 2018-2019 State Budget totaling \$168.3 billion, the education portion of which amounts to \$26.7 billion. Outlined below are the pertinent appropriations for religious and independent schools:

- **Mandated Services Reimbursement:** Funded at \$111,633,000 for 2017-18 school year expenses. Although reimbursement based on a 5- or 5.5-hour instructional day is allowed, the number of days in the year is being considered under separate legislation.
- **CAP:** Funded at \$74,784,000 for 2016-17 school year expenses with \$60 million re-appropriated to reduce the 2-year lag in CAP reimbursement to one year.
- **Health, Safety and Security:** \$15 million is continued to support health, safety and security needs.
- **State Office for Religious and Independent Schools:** \$800,000 is continued for SORIS staff, and only 621,000 of the unspent \$1.9 million for SORIS and school initiatives is re-appropriated.
- **Immunization:** \$7 million is restored for schools in the cities of Buffalo, Rochester, and New York.
- **Smart Schools Bond Act:** \$25m is re-appropriated to address inequities in our share of the bond funds.
- **SCAHC Grants:** \$25m is re-appropriated for the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes program.
- **STEM salary reimbursement:** increased from \$5 million to \$15 million.
- **Academic Intervention Services:** \$922,000
- **Learning Technology Grants:** \$3.29 million
- **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

Additional Programs

- **Substantial Equivalency:** Changes are made to Substantial Equivalency requirements for nonpublic schools. See attached enacted language.
- **Education Charitable Funds:** A state-level and local district level charitable funds are enacted to support students enrolled in only public schools – further tilting an already unlevel playing field to the disadvantage of families choosing religious or independent schools.

- **Prohibition Against Lunch Shaming:** Lawmakers adopted the Governor’s proposal that *all* schools participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs establish and implement a plan to ensure students with unpaid meals are treated no differently than students without unpaid meals. See attached enacted language.
- **Teacher Loan Forgiveness:** Lawmakers adopted a Teacher Loan Forgiveness program to increase the number of teachers serving in the state. Eligible applicants shall (a) be certified as a teacher; (b) be employed full time in this state in an elementary or secondary school; (c) comply with subdivisions three and five of section six hundred sixty-one of this part; (d) have an outstanding student loan debt; and (e) meet one of the following criteria:
 - (i) teach in a shortage subject area;
 - (ii) teach in a hard to staff district; or
 - (iii) the applicant is economically disadvantaged.See attached enacted language.