

SFY 2011-12 Conference Committee Agreements

State Education Department (SED)

Aid to Localities

- The Legislature increases education funding by \$272 million on a State Fiscal Year basis. This brings the year-to-year reduction in school aid from approximately \$929 million to \$697 million.
- The Legislature restores \$230 million for overall funding of General Support for Public Schools (GSPS) for a total of \$19.6 billion in School Year (SY) 2011-12.
- The Legislature provides for a two-year appropriation consistent with the Executive's proposal.
- The restoration provides for adjustments based on need, enrollment increases, students with Limited English Proficiency, and decreases to both the minimum and maximum cuts.
- The Legislature includes a two-year appropriation for school aid which provides for an \$800 million increase in SY 2012-13. This will allow for a phase in of the Foundation Aid formula as well as a reduction in the Gap Elimination Adjustment along with the normal increase of reimbursable aids and other GSPS programs within a personal income growth cap.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive's proposal to reclassify State Supported Schools for the Blind and Deaf as approved private schools for students with disabilities, as well as changes to the funding structure and the student appointment and evaluation process. The State will fully reimburse school districts who will pay these schools in the first instance; at least 50 percent of this reimbursement would be within the same school year as districts incur the costs.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive's proposal to shift costs to school districts for the Summer School Special Education (4408) program. The Legislature restores \$57 million in SFY 2011-12 to the program which reflects an \$86 million restoration to school districts on a School Year basis.
- The Legislature restores SY \$20,440,000 to Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers.
- The Legislature restores \$3,000,000 for Aid to Public Libraries for a total of \$79,012,000.
- The Legislature restores \$3,000,000 for Nonpublic School Aid for a total of \$103,377,000.

- The Legislature restores \$500,000 to Educational Television and Radio for a total of \$14,002,000.
- The Legislature eliminates the Executive's Local Competitive Grant program of \$1,730,000 and would restore funding for the following:
 - Primary Mental Health Project at \$894,000;
 - The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification at \$368,000;
 - Mentoring and Tutoring Program at \$490,000;
 - The High Needs Nursing Program at \$941,000; and
 - The Teacher Opportunity Corp Program at \$450,000.
- The Legislature increases the Consortium for Worker Education (CWE) set aside by \$1,500,000 to \$13,000,000.
- The Legislature provides \$7,000,000 to the State Education Department (SED) for services and expenses relating to state assessments.
- The Legislature provides \$700,000 to the State Education Department (SED) for services and expenses relating to GED.

Competitive Grants

- The Legislature accepts the Executive's creation of two new competitive grant programs: the School District Management Efficiency Awards Program and the School District Performance Improvement Awards Grant, totaling \$500,000,000, and modifies the programs to be multi-year. SFY 2012-13 would mark the first year of disbursements for this program, and \$50,000,000 would be disbursed in SFY 2012-13.
 - The Legislature modifies the School District Management Efficiency Awards Program to also include school districts that have implemented efficiencies within the last three years.
 - The Legislature modifies the School District Performance Improvement Awards Grant in the following manner:
 - Includes a focus on school districts that implemented strategies for narrowing student achievement gaps and increasing academic performance in traditionally underserved student groups.

- Grants priority for grant eligibility to districts with programs that benefit students having the greatest educational needs, including but not limited to, students in traditionally underserved student groups, students with limited English proficiency and who are English language learners, students in poverty, students with disabilities, and students with low academic achievement.
- Expands the eligibility to include all school districts.

Capital Projects

- The Legislature accepts the Executive proposal and recommends no changes.

Article VII

- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposal to put a statute of limitation on the calculation of the Foundation Aid base. The Legislature accepts the Executive recommendation to maintain Foundation Aid at its existing funding level in the 2011-12 School Year. However, the Legislature would allow for the phase in of Foundation Aid beginning in 2012-13. The growth in School Aid would be determined by the growth of personal income in the State.
- The Legislature would continue the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) in 2012-13 at its current level and would have the opportunity to reduce the GEA in SY 2012-13 within the personal income growth cap.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposal to transform Building Aid from a reimbursable aid to a competitive grant program. The Legislature also rejects the Executive proposal to eliminate the use of the Select Building Aid Ratio.
- The Legislature modifies the Executive proposal to allow interchange among textbook, hardware and software aid. The Legislature would not allow school districts to spend Library Materials Aid on any of these other uses.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposal to change the BOCES Aid ratio beginning in the 2012-13 School Year.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposal to eliminate reimbursement for certain non-instructional services within BOCES.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposal limit the eligibility for school districts to enter into school bus leases.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposal to alter the eligibility for the purchase of school buses to replace an existing bus.

- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposal to penalize school districts for not adopting certain required transportation efficiencies beginning in the 2012-13 School Year.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposal to create a new \$1.7 million Competitive Education Improvement Performance grant.
- The Legislature continues a set aside within Employment Preparation Education (EPE) for students with high school diplomas who do not have basic skills.
- The Legislature would continue the authority of the Commissioner of Education to award discretionary grants to public educational entities pursuant to streamlined contracting procedures developed in conjunction with the Office of the State Comptroller.