



NEWS RELEASE

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Governor's Budget A Great Opportunity for an Overdue Debate

ALBANY, NY – January 31, 2007 – Responding to Governor Spitzer's proposed state education budget, New York State Council of School Superintendents Executive Director Dr. Thomas Rogers said:

“Governor Spitzer's proposed state budget creates the opportunity for a long overdue debate over the direction of education policy in New York State.

“With the Governor's proposal for an overhaul of school aid formulas, the state is at last on the brink of fulfilling its constitutional promise of giving every child the chance for a good education. We will be evaluating the details of his proposal and its effects on districts throughout the state. But clearly it advances our goals for reform: it would get more help to schools serving the children who need the most help and it would give all school leaders a simpler, more manageable and more predictable funding system.

“The strong financial foundation provided by the Governor's budget gives us a chance to move ahead on other actions needed to improve outcomes for all students.

“New York should be evaluating its learning standards to assure that students are developing the flexible skills they will need to succeed in work that cannot be done cheaper by anyone abroad or faster by machines. We should be developing an accountability system that holds all adults in education accountable for producing results. We should be pursuing more innovation in how teachers are paid – the largest category of school spending. State mandates should be reviewed to permit schools to make the best of the time they now have with students. We should be leveraging the resources of schools and other agencies to help children from poor families overcome obstacles to a better life.

“The legislative budget process provides a chance to thoroughly evaluate all the Governor's proposals. As always, we will work with Legislators and the Governor's staff to produce the best budget possible for the schoolchildren and taxpayers we serve.”

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The New York State Council of School Superintendents is the professional association of nearly 700 school district leaders, helping members succeed through professional development, advocating sound public policy on behalf of schoolchildren and taxpayers, and defending the leadership role of the superintendency.