

## School Aid

- Reject proposed reduction of save-harmless, cutting Foundation Aid for half of all school districts.
- Reject proposal to reduce Foundation Aid inflation adjustment which would cut aid for all districts below what they would receive in 2024-25 under current law.
- Support funding to enable the State Education Department to lead research needed in updating the Foundation Aid formula.
- Support full funding of expense based aid as proposed by the Governor.
- Reject proposal to freeze data used in aid calculations.
- Restore funding for prior year adjustments—state aid now totaling more than \$300 million determined to be owed to districts.

## Hiring Challenges

- Continue waiver from \$35,000 limit on earnings for public sector retirees working in schools.
- Support reforms to civil service:
  - Provide that provisional employees become permanent employees after 9 months of service if a test is not offered during their first 9 months of provisional service.
  - Require counties to provide electronic lists and allow electronic canvassing.
  - Prohibit counties from placing residency restrictions on the canvassing lists they send to school districts—45% of upstate school districts cross county lines.

## Zero-Emission School Bus Transition

- Support state funding for studies to determine routes for all districts for which use of zero-emission buses is feasible, given geography, weather conditions, and current charge duration.
- Require independent verification of range limits before any zero-emission school bus may be offered for sale as meeting state mandates.
- Reduce amortization period for aid toward purchase of zero-emission buses from 12 to seven years (amortization period for traditional buses is five years).

## Other State Funding Issues

- Support increasing BOCES and Special Services Aid to expand access to career and technical education.
- Support state funding to help school districts comply with court mandate to provide instruction for students with disabilities to age 22 (current state formulas only aid through age 21).
- Reject proposal to make permanent for shift from state to school districts room and board costs for students in residential special education placements.

## Prekindergarten

- Support Executive Budget proposal to remove “supplement not supplant language” to improve support for ongoing prekindergarten programs.
- Support initiatives to move from four grant programs to a single, unified Universal Prekindergarten program.
- Increase funding for preschool special education providers as demand for placements exceeds supply in multiple regions.

## Other Issues

- Support the Executive Budget proposal sunset COVID sick leave and other benefits for employees subject to mandatory or precautionary quarantine as quarantine requirements have changed.
- Authorize school districts to conduct instructional days during the last two weeks of August and have those to count toward 180-day minimum required for full Foundation Aid. With districts recognizing more holidays, either by state mandate or by local choice, some are challenged to meet the 180-day requirement under existing limitations.
- Increase capital outlay limit from \$50,000 to \$250,000 to enable school districts to receive next year reimbursement for small construction projects (cost for other projects are reimbursed over 15 years are longer).
- Increase school district unrestricted fund balance limit from 4% to at least 6%. School officials seek to build reserves for the same reasons that Governor Hochul has done so—to prepare for uncertainties over costs and revenues, including the expiration of federal stimulus funding. Independent authorities recommend an unrestricted fund balance of approximately 15% and New York municipalities have no percentage limit.