



New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents

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Executive Secretary

Summary 2024-25 Executive Budget Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Governor Hochul proposes \$233 billion in her 2024-25 Executive Budget – a \$6 billion, or 4.5% overall increase in spending beyond the current year. Outlined below is my initial summary of the Governor's proposed spending levels for programs benefiting students in religious and independent schools.

Mandated Services Aid (MSA) and Comprehensive Attendance Policy (CAP): As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this critical program, the Governor proposes \$239,228,000, a \$44 million (23 percent) increase, to restore the 4% shortfall from 2023 school year reimbursements and to fully fund anticipated reimbursements payable in school year 2025. The Governor also maintains the state's statutory obligation to fully reimburse schools for their mandated services to the state.

Immunization: As in recent years, the Governor's proposed budget does **not** include funding (previously set at \$1 million) to reimburse our schools located in Buffalo, Rochester, and New York City for expenses in complying with the state's immunization program. Funds have typically been restored by the legislature.

Health, Safety & Security: Governor Hochul proposes maintaining funding at \$45 million, to support health and safety projects, including a new authorization to cover critical repair and maintenance and other capital needs of religious and independent school facilities.

STEM: \$73 million is proposed to be maintained to reimburse schools for a portion of the salaries of Science, Technology, Engineering & Math teachers.

Academic Intervention Services: Maintained at \$922,000 with \$1.84 million available annually to spend down prior year appropriations.

Learning Technology Grants: proposed to be maintained at \$3.29 million.

School Nutrition Programs: The Governor recommends maintaining current year funding including last year's additional \$134 million to provide free meals for all students in schools that have at least 40 percent of students already eligible for free/reduced price meals. In addition, \$10 million is maintained to cover the State share of reimbursing schools up to \$0.25 per meal for any school that purchases at least 30 percent of the food for its lunch program from New York farmers and growers; and \$2.3 million in continued to support student meal costs.

SCAHC: The Governor proposes maintaining \$25 million for religious and independent schools and programs under the *Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes* program.

UPK: Lawmakers continued support for expansion of full-day four-year-old pre-k children served by districts either directly and through contracts with community providers (including religious and independent schools). They also require school districts to provide data to SED on the extent to which they are unable to serve four-year olds.

State Office of Religious and Independent Schools: SORIS funding is proposed to be maintained at \$1,500,000 to support the work of SORIS including that related to enforcement of the “substantial equivalency” provisions of the education law and Department regulations.

School Bus Driver Training: proposed to be maintained at \$400,000, including training for religious and independent school bus drivers.

Teacher Centers: As is typical, the Governor does not propose continuing the \$21.4 million program which is typically restored by the legislature. This program includes participation of religious and independent school teachers.

Instructional Material Aid: The aid amounts are proposed to remain unchanged:

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

Re-Appropriations: All re-appropriations of unspent state and federal funds from prior years appear to have been maintained by lawmakers, including the Federal *Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS)*. In addition, lawmakers adopted our recommended language affirming that federal Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools funds will remain available to reimburse religious and independent schools for allowable pandemic-related costs should any such funds revert to the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund.