

## 2024-25 Regents Budget & Legislative Priorities Budget Status

### Critical IT Infrastructure Investments

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
<p><b>Agency-wide IT Infrastructure Needs</b> – Combined staff and funding needs to support the purchase of external technology and services</p>	\$4.3 million	<b>Included \$3.2 million to support ITS investments and funds for software/hardware licensing and support.</b>
<p><b>Statewide Longitudinal Data System</b> – New York State was recently awarded a \$3.75 million federal grant to support the development of a statewide data system that can follow students throughout their educational careers and into the labor force. Funding to support the costs of a new inhouse technical group to oversee this work and the use of a prior year state appropriation for this project are needed to ensure success.</p>	Release previous appropriation of \$10.5 million and \$530,000 in new funding for staffing	<b>Included 5 staff for the Statewide Longitudinal Data System</b>
<p><b>Special Education Data System</b> – The Office of Special Education has begun work on a new real-time data system that will help the Department, local school districts, counties, and parents identify programs that can support the needs of students with disabilities around the state. For this work, both a project team and capital construction funds are needed.</p>	\$15.5 million	<b>Not provided</b>
<p><b>Pre-Kindergarten through College Systems &amp; Ongoing Projects</b> – The Department has several ongoing IT system modernization projects. These include the Professions, TEACH, State Aid and the Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE). While the funds for these have already been made available, we ask for continued appropriation authority to allow the use of those funds.</p>	Continue funding from previous years, no new funding needed	

**Prekindergarten through College and Career Program Priorities (P-20)**

<b>Proposal Description</b>	<b>Amount of Request</b>	<b>Included in Executive Budget?</b>
<p><b>Foundation Aid Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Long Term:</b> This proposal requests \$1 million for NYSED to contract with a team of educational researchers and engage with stakeholders to design and model research-based updates to Foundation Aid to inform discussions as to how to make the formula more equitable and responsive school year after the formula has been fully phased-in.</li> <li>• <b>Short Term:</b> NYSED Department staff consulted with a diverse group of stakeholders to identify their insights about and priorities for initial foundation aid reform. The projected statewide fiscal impact of these changes is \$253.4 million over current law projections.</li> <li>• <b>Midyear Growth Aid:</b> School districts across the state have seen enrollment influxes driven, in part, by asylum seekers. These newcomers often arrive unexpectedly or midyear, after district budgets are established. Foundation Aid is calculated on a per pupil basis, using the pupil count from the prior year. For districts undergoing rapid enrollment growth, aid based on enrollment from the prior year is insufficient to meet the needs of the students who have arrived. One response is to provide current year aid for these students with a standalone “Growth Aid” formula at the Foundation Aid per pupil level. Aid in the 2024-2025 school year will be based on enrollment growth in the 2024-2025 school year and would be paid in the next state fiscal year.</li> </ul>	<p align="center">\$1 million for a study and \$253.4 million for initial foundation aid reform</p>	<p align="center"><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>Federal Stimulus Funds</b> –The state’s responsibilities for the American Rescue Plan Act do not disappear with the funds but persist through the extended liquidation period. NYSED must be allowed to sustain needed staffing that has supported the federal stimulus funded work during this period. This request would support the cost of staff through the end of the 2024-2025 state fiscal year.</p>	<p align="center">\$865,000</p>	<p align="center"><b>No</b></p>

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
<p><b>Update Learning Standards to Reflect Current Research</b> – The Department cannot update its standards or literacy supports without subject matter professionals and administrative staff. We request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Health Associate</li> <li>• 3 Literacy Associates</li> <li>• Resources to ensure that our New York State Learning Standards are aligned to the Board of Regents Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Education (CRSE) Framework</li> </ul>	\$1.4 million	<p><b>Included 4 literacy related positions (an additional position to oversee the Executive’s Science of Reading proposal) and 1 health associate position. The CRSE funding request (\$954,190) was not included.</b></p>
<p><b>Charter School Office</b> – The Charter School Office has been funded primarily by a federal grant that is ending. Since no more federal funds will be available, we request state funding to replace the federal funds, which support eight staff in the Charter School Office. We also request an additional staff member to address increasing legal issues around charters.</p>	\$1.7 million	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>Supporting English Language Learners in our Assessment Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Assessment Translations:</b> In 2019, we received a \$1 million to offer translations of all required assessments (3 languages for Regents Exams and grades 3-8 Math Tests, and 5 languages for the Elementary- and Intermediate-level Science Tests). However, test development is an ongoing process. New funding is needed to continue to offer these assessments, parent materials, and public information in the most common home languages of students.</li> <li>• <b>NYSESLAT:</b> The NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) needs computer-based delivery for grades 2-12 and interim assessments for K-12, as well as improved support for students with disabilities who are also English Language Learners. NYSED does not have a peer-reviewed English language proficiency assessment for ELLs with the most significant cognitive disabilities that is consistent with federal requirements.</li> </ul>	\$4.5 million	<p><b>No</b></p>

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
<p><b>Juvenile Justice Hybrid Programming</b> – The Board proposes the creation of statewide hybrid high school in collaboration with the Office of Children and Family Services for students in juvenile justice settings.</p>	<p>\$20 million</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Support for Zero-Emission Bus Initiative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor Hochul’s zero emission bus initiative and the requirement that school buildings move toward increased electrification have put substantial strain on existing resources. We request three additional staff to support districts as they implement this transition.</li> <li>• Agency Leadership Level Working Group: The zero-emission bus initiative and the requirement that school buildings move towards increased electrification will require the State to overcome significant obstacles. Many of these issues are outside the purview of the State Education Department. To ensure successful implementation, we request that the Governor call together a high-level working group that can identify implementation issues and develop and recommend solutions.</li> </ul>	<p>\$300,000</p>	<p><b>Included 3 staff to support the Department’s work on zero-emission buses. The Agency Leadership Level Working Group was not included.</b></p> <p><b>Budget also included a provision that allowed districts to treat the costs of grant funded buses as a local contribution. This increases the benefit of the grant to districts.</b></p>
<p><b>Teacher Recruitment Pipeline</b> – Many districts struggle to find qualified teachers in key areas. As an interim measure until root causes of the shortage can be addressed, partnering with TEACH.org would include: a statewide marketing campaign to inspire New Yorkers to consider teaching and generate leads; programming, experiences, and inspirational content to cultivate leads; and one-on-one advising, guides to educator preparation programs and licensure, financial assistance, certification exam preparation, and other resources to support leads in overcoming common barriers to becoming a teacher.</p>	<p>\$1.2 million in new funding for year 1; \$3.7 million total over 3 years</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Streamline Early Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state has four statewide universal full-day prekindergarten grants, each administered separately, which should be merged in the 2024-2025 school year.</li> </ul>	<p>No additional fiscal impact</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All but one of the prekindergarten grants include limitations on supplanting other state grants. We removal of the “supplanting” language from all state funded prekindergarten programs.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Expand Access to CTE and Early College Learning Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Career and Technical Education:</b> Expand access to high quality career and technical education (CTE) to advance student learning and expand New York State’s economy by increasing aid reimbursement for BOCES and special services aids.</li> <li><b>Early College:</b> Create a new comprehensive early college program and funding formula to reduce the overall cost and time needed to obtain a degree, demonstrate college readiness, and transition to college.</li> </ul>	None	No
<p><b>State-owned Buildings and Schools</b> – In addition to capital support for maintenance and upgrades to buildings where Department staff work, the Board requests funds for the maintenance of and/or construction of the five state-owned school campuses. These are the NYS School for the Blind, the NYS School for the Deaf, the Onondaga Nation School, the Tuscarora Nation School, and the St. Regis Mohawk Nation School. The 2023-24 Enacted Budget included enhanced capital funding for a group of projects in these buildings. To continue to address years of deferred maintenance due to underinvestment during the previous administration, an additional round is requested for 2024-25.</p>	\$174 million	<p><b>Included the following capital funding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>\$3.4 million for minor rehabilitation projects for the Department (requested \$19.1 million)</b></li> <li><b>\$4.47 million for Batavia Minor Rehabilitation and Renovation Capital projects (requested \$8.4 million)</b></li> <li><b>\$3 million for Rome Minor Rehabilitation and Renovation Capital projects</b></li> <li><b>\$11.2 million for the Onondaga Nation School Capital projects (requested \$40 million)</b></li> <li><b>\$2.3 million for the St. Regis Mohawk School Capital</b></li> </ul>

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
		<p>projects (requested \$123.3 million)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6.6 million for the Tuscarora Nation Schools Capital projects (requested \$14.7 million)</li> </ul>

### Special Education

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
<p><b>Providing a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) to Students with Disabilities until Age 22</b> – The Second Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision in Connecticut requires that public schools in New York provide special education and related services to resident students with disabilities until the age of 22. New York State Law provides state funding to students only through the school year in which the student turns 21. Aligning state law to this court decision's requirements is critical to supporting districts as they serve students with disabilities until age 22.</p>	<p>\$55.3 million (annual)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>Support Educational Providers with Residential Programs</b> – Residential facilities for students receiving special education services have retained students beyond age 21 (and now 22) where it is difficult to find adult placements that meet their needs. Since these young adults take the place of students who would participate in the school program, the school loses tuition revenue for that student. The Regents recommend amending the statute to make the provider whole when tuition cannot be billed due to an adult occupying a student placement. Also, it is recommended that the Governor direct the state agencies overseeing such placements to come together to ensure sufficient residential capacity for all placements in residential settings (adult and school age).</p>	<p>\$19 million</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>No</b></p>

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
<p><b>Extend Rate Setting Methodology Study</b> – The 2023-24 Enacted Budget provided funding to NYSED to engage in a study of the methodology by which rates to support the costs of special education services are established. NYSED moved immediately to finalize and issued an RFP but was not able to identify a route to success. More time and funding for the project is needed to attract the right partner prepared to undertake this important work.</p>	<p>\$1.4 million</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Tuition Growth Methodology</b> – The 2023-24 Enacted Budget provided funding to review the rate setting methodology for private special education providers and special act school districts. However, as noted, this work will take some time to complete. Until then, these schools must have a tuition rate growth factor that reflects the year to year increases in costs (staff salaries and benefits, etc.) to be able to maintain current levels of services.</p>	<p>The net impact of this inflation-adjusted cost factor is unknown at this time</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>Interim Plus</b> – To minimize the delay in approved special education providers receiving access to a tuition rate that includes growth, NYSED must continue to apply a growth factor in the calculation of interim rates. As any approved growth factor will be applied to prospective rates too, this proposal is cost neutral and eliminates the need for programs to incur additional interest charges to fund expenses while waiting for the prospective rate.</p>	<p>Cost neutral, will allow providers to plan for the year with a known rate growth percentage</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>

## Higher Education

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
<p><b>Higher Education Opportunity Programs</b> – Increase funding for the following Opportunity Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science and Technology Entry program (STEP)</li> <li>• Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)</li> <li>• Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP)</li> <li>• Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)</li> </ul>	<p>\$11.1 million</p>	<p><b>Included the following funding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$24.2 million for LLP, a decrease of \$738,000 (requested \$27.47 million)</b></li> <li>• <b>\$46.9 million for HEOP, a decrease of \$1.4 million (requested \$53.15 million)</b></li> <li>• <b>\$20.9 million for the STEP, a decrease of \$636,000 (requested \$23.65 million)</b></li> <li>• <b>\$15.8 million for CSTEP, a decrease of \$482,000 (requested \$17.92 million)</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Support for Post-Secondary Students with Disabilities</b> – Students with disabilities enrolled in degree-granting colleges and universities may need support similar to what they received in high school to be successful. Additional funds would allow postsecondary schools to enhance the supports and services they provide to their enrolled students with disabilities.</p>	<p>\$2 million increase to last year’s approp of \$4M</p>	<p><b>Included \$2 million, the same level as last year’s Executive, removed legislative add from last year.</b></p>
<p><b>Teacher and School Leader Development</b> – The Department has centralized all aspects of teacher and school leader development into one office led by an assistant commissioner charged with creating a continuum of teacher and school leader development opportunities. To support these efforts, current law must be amended to shift to an evaluation system that places student learning and teacher development at its core. Last year, NYSED and the Educational Conference Board (ECB) stakeholders worked together and came close to agreement on a compromise proposal for Annual Professional Performance Reviews. The goal for these plans is to lead to meaningful teacher and principal professional development and</p>	<p>None</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>



Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
support without current punitive elements, improving classroom experiences and outcomes and benefiting our students across New York State.		

**Office of Cultural Education**

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
<b>Revenue Stabilization</b> – Funding for the Office of Cultural Education primarily through the Cultural Education (CE) Revenue Account and Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF). These program funds receive their revenues from a fee charged for the recording of deeds. The dollar amount of the fee has not changed in over 20 years, despite inflation of approximately 60% during that time. Either a reliable base State general fund appropriation of \$17 million or a \$10 fee increase is needed.	<b>Increase fee by \$10/ per transaction or provide equivalent GF appropriation of \$17 million</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>New York State Summer School for the Arts (NYSSSA)</b> – NYSSSA will provide residential programming and scholarships during the summers of 2024 and 2025, to New York State students interested in the arts.	\$2.0 million	<b>Included an authorization to spend \$1 million in OCE’s special revenue funds. No new general fund support provided</b>
<b>NOVELny</b> – NOVELny is a full-text research database free to all residents of the State of New York. The Office of Cultural Education used federal funds to support this resource in the past. However, NOVELny cannot be funded beyond the middle of 2024. We request a state appropriation to continue this small program.	\$3 million	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Talking Books and Braille Library/Preservation-Conservation</b> – The New York State Library needs more funding to adequately serve visually impaired persons who use talking books and braille. Additional funding is also needed for the conservation and preservation of objects and materials that represent New York's rich history.	\$250,000	<b>Included \$1 million for the Talking Book &amp; Braille Library and Conservation Preservation, an increase of \$235,000</b>

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
<p><b>Public Library Construction Assistance</b> – The State Aid for Library Construction program stretches local investment, ensuring that even libraries serving economically disadvantaged communities can access capital funding for critical library improvements. Although \$45 million just scratches the surface of our libraries’ significant construction needs, this request would be a step forward and consistent with last year’s request.</p>	<p>\$45 million</p>	<p><b>Included \$34 million (level funding from 2023-24)</b></p>

**ACCES**

Proposal Description	Amount of Request	Included in Executive Budget?
<p><b>Vocational Rehabilitation Program Appropriation Language</b> – The amount of revenue that the Vocational Rehabilitation program can generate from the Ticket to Work Program is limited by the appropriation authority. Increasing the Social Security Account State Operations appropriation authority from \$5.884 million to \$8 million would remove artificial limits on the value of the claims the Department can submit for reimbursement from the Social Security Administration for the eligible work we do to help people with disabilities become employed. Increasing the amount appropriated for personal service and related costs in the State Operations budget will allow ACCES to better utilize this funding and increase income from the Vocational Rehabilitation program.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p><b>Adult Education Program</b> – Appropriated funds for adult basic education (ABE), English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), and adult secondary education (ASE) programs cannot be fully expended on services for adult learners due to specific year references in reappropriation language. Removing these references would allow NYSED to use unspent funds to support adult basic education and literacy programs as originally intended.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>