

This information is from email communications from Marina Marcou-O'Malley at AQE on April 21, 2021:

New York State passed its budget, and we are proud to say that it includes many good things on early education. I want to emphasize that none of these victories would have been possible without the engagement of early ed providers, parents and community members, as well as young people and advocates. We have been able through the Empire State Campaign on Child Care, Winning Beginning NY and Ready for College Ready for Kindergarten (Schuyler Center for Advocacy and Analysis and the Alliance for Quality Education are convening or core groups of all the aforementioned campaigns and coalitions) campaign to implement an outside strategy putting pressure on elected, as well as an inside strategy working with our champions to finally be able to win!

PRE-K

NYS expanded access to pre-K through its Universal Pre-K program, which is based on formula allocation (based on need) by \$90 million for FY 2021-22, to 210 school districts that do not have pre-K and to 25 school districts that did not have enough funding to implement full day pre-K (only, no half day allowed). The budget also includes \$15 million for the statewide full day program, a grant program that provides \$10,000 per pupil, which will be allocated via an RFP. We expect the RFP to be out by the end of the summer, due in mid-fall and by the new year school districts will be able to access the funding. There is language in the budget that includes funding for the next 3 years, with federal dollars being used for year 1 and 2 and for the 3rd year the state picks up all the funding commitment. The program does include an expiration date, which is the assurance that is necessary for school districts to implement pre-K programs. Also, the UPK language maintains the commitment for a mixed delivery system, with at least 10% of UPK funding going to CBOs.

Child Care (Statement attached)

- Oversight of the legislature - of the funding dispersed on the following items through the reception of an annual report prepared by the Office of Children and Families:
 - description of projects supported
 - total funds committed by project type
 - total funds used
 - number of child care providers that received funding broken down by modality (center based, family-based, legally exempt)
 - average number of grant
 - number of child care teachers receiving wage supplements
 - number of children receiving subsidy
 - number of new families eligible for subsidies.
 - reporting on the stabilization funds and of the child care deserts.
- Increased eligibility for child care subsidies to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level statewide while adding an additional 10,000 childcare slots
- Provides \$1.26 billion in upfront stabilization grants to providers that can be used to increase wages and benefits for childcare workers child care
- Caps co-payments to 10% of a family's income over the federal poverty level
- Reimburses providers for 24 absences per child per year
- Ensure 12 month eligibility for families in receipt of subsidies (increased from 6 months)

- Provides an additional \$50 million in funding for existing facilitated enrollment child care providers in six regions of the state over the next 2 years.
- Invests \$100 million to build new childcare capacity in areas of the state deemed to be child care deserts
- Provides childcare scholarships for essential workers, and grants for supplies and PPE to providers.

There is also commitment by the state to pick up some of the cost for subsidies and absences after the federal dollars are no longer available.

Revenue

The state increased the personal income tax rates for those making over \$1 million and added brackets for those making over \$5 million and those making over \$25 million. It also legalized mobile sports betting. These actions generate approximately \$5 billion annually in new revenue. In addition, the budget increases the corporate tax rate for corporate franchise taxpayers with net income over \$5 million, and reinstates the capital tax base. These actions generate another billion annually.

K-12 Education (statement can be found [HERE](#))

The budget included an increase of \$1.4 billion in Foundation Aid funding (the state's basic operating aid formula that is based on needs and equity) with a 3 year commitment to fully fund the remaining \$4 billion that schools have been shortchanged over the last decade (in 2007, the state committed to providing \$5.5 billion over four years, so that low income schools which had been chronically underfunded could catch up to wealthier schools, as a legislative remedy to the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit that was brought against the state in 1993. CFE was also the reason why AQE was created, to help organize parents around the lawsuit). Finally, after all these decades, there is legislative commitment in the budget language to fully fund Foundation Aid and add it to the base funding that school districts are getting.

Federal funding: School districts are expected to go through a public process and engage the community in creating their plans to spend federal funding, which they have 3 years to spend. Their plans must be broken down by year and describe how these funds are used to meet students needs (early education is part of the use of these funds).

And, now we are in the process of planning celebrations for these wins but also how to monitor the implementation and use of the funding to make sure that there is accountability and transparency.

For the statement from the Empire State Campaign for Child Care and Winning Beginnings NY on the state budget, see: <https://scaany.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ESCCC-WBNY-Budget-Statement-Final.pdf>.