



# NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

## 2025 JOINT BUDGET HEARING

January 29, 2024 – 9:30 AM

### ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

---

1. New York State Education Department	Betty A. Rosa Commissioner
--	-------------------------------

---

2. New York City Department of Education	Melissa Aviles-Ramos Chancellor
--	------------------------------------

---

**Panel A:**

3. United Federation of Teachers	Michael Mulgrew President
----------------------------------	------------------------------

4. New York State United Teachers	Melinda Person President
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------

5. Council of School Supervisors and Administrators	Henry Rubio President
---	--------------------------

6. School Administrators Association of NYS	Cynthia Gallagher PhD. Director, Government Relations
---	--

---

**Panel B:**

7. Conference of Big 5 School Districts	Jennifer Pyle Executive Director
---	-------------------------------------

8. Buffalo Public Schools	Tonja Williams Knight Superintendent
---------------------------	---

9. Rochester City School District	Demario Strickland Interim Superintendent
10. Syracuse City School District	Anthony Davis Superintendent
11. Yonkers Public Schools	Anibal Soler Superintendent
12. City school District of Albany	Joseph Hochreiter Superintendent
13. Mount Vernon City School District	K. Veronica Smith Acting Superintendent
14. Utica City School District	Christopher Spence Superintendent

---

**Panel C:**

15. NYS Council of School Superintendents	Robert Lowry Deputy Director
16. NYS School Boards Association	Brian Fessler Chief Advocacy Officer
17. Association of School Business Officials of NY	Brian Cechnicki Executive Director
18. NYS Parent Teacher Association	Kyle Belokopitsky Executive Director
19. Rural Schools Association of New York	David Little Executive Director
20. BOCES of New York State	Scott Budelmann Legislative Liaison
21. National Parents Union	Ashara Baker New York State Director

---

**Panel D:**

22. 4201 Schools Association	Bernadette Kappen
------------------------------	-------------------

	Co-Chair
23. New York State Coalition of 853 Schools	John Lopez President
24. Advocates for Children of New York	Randi Levine Policy Director
25. New York Health Foundation	David Sandman President & CEO
26. Center for Educational Equity, Teachers College, Columbia University	Michael Rebell Executive Director

---

**Panel E:**

27. New York Library Association	Maxwell Prime Director Government Relations and Advocacy
28. New York School Bus Contractors Association	Tommy Smith President
29. Center for Science in the Public Interest	Catherine Cochran Policy Associate
30. Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids Coalition	Jessica Pino-Goodspeed Coalition Leader
31. Healthy Schools Network	Claire L Barnett Executive Director

---

**Panel F:**

32. Teach NYS	Sydney Altfield Executive Director
33. Agudath Israel of America	Rabbi Yeruchim Silber Director of New York Governmental Relations
34. New York Charter School Association	Fatimah Barker Interim Executive Director

35. NYC Charter School Center

James Merriman  
Chief Executive Officer

36. New York State Coalition for the Independent  
And Religious Schools

James Cultrara  
Executive Secretary

---

**Panel G:**

37. Alliance for Quality Education

Marina Marcou – O’Malley  
Interim Co - Executive Director

38. The Education Trust – New York

Arlene Benjamine-Gomez  
Executive Director

39. YMCA of Greater NY

Chelsea Baytemur  
Director of Policy and Advocacy

40. YAFFED

Beatrice Weber  
Senior Advisor

---