

**SFY 2006-2007 Subcommittee on Education
Report to the General Conference Committee**

To: Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno, Co-Chair
Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Co-Chair
General Conference Committee

From: Senator Stephen M. Saland, Co-Chair
Member of Assembly, Catherine Nolan, Co-Chair
Joint Conference Subcommittee on Education

Subject: Detailed Report of the Conference Committee on Education

Senator Stephen M. Saland, Co-Chair	Assemblymember Catherine Nolan, Co-Chair
Senator John J. Flanagan	Assemblymember Aurelia Greene
Senator Frank Padavan	Assemblymember William L. Parment
Senator James L. Seward	Assemblymember Paul D. Tonko
Senator George Winner*	Assemblymember Patricia Eddington*
Senator Suzi Oppenheimer	Assemblymember James Hayes
Senator George Onorato*	Assemblymember Fred Thiele, Jr.*

On March 28, 2006, after 3 meetings, the Education Subcommittee completed its work and presented a report to the General Conference Committee. We are pleased to present this report which provides detail on all the budget changes agreed to by the Subcommittee.

1. General Support for Public School (GSPS) Programs

The Executive Budget provided for a \$275 million increase in formula aid for the 2006-07 school year. An additional \$375 million increase in Sound Basic Education aid was provided but unallocated.

The Legislature enhances the total formula increase to \$1.1 billion, a 6.97% increase, and provides for a process by which the \$375 million increase in Sound Basic Education is allocated. This \$1.1 billion formula increase represents a record dollar increase in school aid.

The Legislative school aid agreement provides full funding for the following formulas as part of the \$1.1 billion aid increase:

Public Excess Cost aid	+\$116 million
Private Excess Cost aid	+\$112.5 million
Boards of Cooperative Educational Services aid (BOCES)	+\$58.1 million
Instructional Materials	+\$100,000
Computer Hardware aid	+\$180,000

Transportation aid (including summer
School transportation aid) +\$98.7 million

Universal Pre-K is funded at \$254 million, which provides for \$204 million in continued funding and an additional \$50 million to expand this program.

Early Grade Class Size Reduction, cont. \$140 million

Building aid/Reorganization Building aid +\$91.6 million

Teacher Support aid, cont. \$67.5 million

Full-Day Kindergarten aid \$1.9 million (present law)

Reorganization Operating aid \$15.4 million (present law)

Sound Basic Education aid +\$375 million: The Legislature accepts the Executive recommendation to increase funding for Sound Basic Education aid by \$375 million in a manner consistent with the formula allocation used for 2005-06.

The Legislature provides enhancements to the following formulas:

Flex aid +\$85 million: Flex aid is increased by 1% for all school districts.

Supplemental Extraordinary Needs Aid (ENA) +\$136.1 million: This new aid category provides for additional operating aid for low wealth districts and districts with high need students.

Tax Limitation aid +\$76.6 million: This aid is enhanced to provide for additional state support to districts with high residential tax burdens and for districts which make a strong spending effort per child.

Special Services aid +\$6.1 million: Is enhanced to reflect increased costs associated with providing career education programs.

Enrollment Adjustment Aid: +\$26.7 million: An Enrollment Adjustment Aid is provided to school districts which have experienced enrollment growth since 2001. Regular Growth Aid is increased by \$2 million over 2005-06.

Limited English Proficiency aid (LEP) +\$20.5 million: LEP aid is recreated as a separate aid category and \$20 million is provided for the education of students with limited English proficiency.

High Tax aid: A \$20 million aid formula is added to provide additional operating aid to school districts located in counties with high residential school taxes relative to income levels.

2. Grant Programs and Other Aid Categories

The Legislature restores Teacher Resource and Computer Centers to \$31 million, which is \$20.67 million above the Executive and provides additional funding as well.

The Legislature restores the Teacher Mentor Intern program to \$6 million, which is \$4 million above the Executive.

The Legislature provides for School Health Services for certain city school districts above the Executive proposal. The Executive provides \$5.77 million.

Employment Preparation Education (EPE) is funded at \$96 million, which is \$6 million above the Executive.

The Legislature rejects the Executive's cost shift of Tenured Teacher Hearings, and funds this program at \$3.3 million.

The Legislature restores funding National Board for Professional Teacher Certification at \$500,000.

Bilingual Education is funded at \$11.5 million, which is \$300,000 above 2005-06.

Adult Literacy Education is funded at \$5.3 million, an increase of \$2 million over the 2005-06 school year.

Independent Living Centers are funded at \$11.7 million, an increase of \$1 million over the Executive.

Math and Science High School Initiative is funded at \$1.5 million.

Supported Employment is funded at \$16.5 million, an increase of \$1 million over the Executive.

Educational Television and Radio is funded at \$15.8 million, an increase of \$3 million above the Executive.

Aid to Public Libraries is continued at \$88.9 million. In addition the Subcommittee provides \$2.7 million in funding for libraries using the 2000 census with a save harmless provision and an additional \$3 million in library aid.

Furthermore, an increase of \$14 million in library construction funding is provided.

Funds are provided for the following projects:

- \$20,000,000 for the construction of a new storage facility for the collections of the State Museum, Library and Archive; and
- \$20,000,000 to enhance the public display of the collections of the State Museum, Library and Archive

The Center for Autism at SUNY Albany is funded at an additional \$500,000 out of the General Fund.

Teachers of Tomorrow is funded at \$25 million, \$5 million above last year.

Engineers of the Future is funded at \$5 million.

The Summer Institute for Math and Science is funded at \$5 million.

Fiscal Stabilization Grants are funded at \$44.14 million.

Prior Year Claims and remaining 2005-06 Fiscal Stabilization is funded at \$25.9 million.

The Legislature continues the following programs at present law levels:

- Roosevelt \$6 million

- Categorical Reading \$63.95 million
- Improving Pupil Performance \$66.3 million
- Magnet Schools \$137.5 million
- Aid to Small City School Districts \$81.8 million
- Urban-Suburban Transfer Program \$1.1 million
- Homeless Pupils \$6.48 million
- Incarcerated Youth \$16.5 million
- Education of OMH / OMRDD Pupils \$34 million
- Special School Districts \$2.2 million
- County Vocational Education Extension Board (CVVEEB) \$924,000
- BOCES Aid for Special Act School Districts \$675,000
- Learning Technology Grants \$3.2 million
- Shared Services Incentives \$200,000
- Bus Driver Safety \$400,000

Welfare Education Program (WEP) is funded at \$2 million.

Apprenticeship Training is funded at \$1.8 million.

Workplace Literacy is funded at \$1.37 million.

The Health Education Program is funded at \$750,000.

Case Services is funded at \$54.6 million.

The Legislature rejects the Executive's proposal to fund Academic Achievement Awards at \$500,000.

The Missing Children Program is funded at \$1 million.

3. Article VII Proposals

The members of the Joint Conference Subcommittee on Education agree to accept the following Executive proposals:

- Encouraging school districts to review energy conservation and saving best practices with NYSERDA
- Clarifying the approved expenses for Building Condition Surveys
- Authorize the leasing of school buses for 1 year

In addition, the members of the Subcommittee agree to reject the following Executive proposals:

- Changing the school voting process
- Eliminating reimbursement to BOCES for the administrative costs on cooperative purchasing
- Requiring BOCES to demonstrate savings for services compared to existing State contract prices

- No longer reimbursing BOCES for certain educational services
- Cost shift to school districts for pre-school special education evaluations
- Placing fiscal responsibility for tenured teachers' disciplinary hearings on school districts
- The proposal regarding charter schools
- Wicks Law Exemptions
- Allowing the School Construction Authority to contract out
- The proposal regarding code of ethics
- The proposal on School Business Officials Qualifications
- Academic Achievement Awards
- Flex Aid bonus for adopting a spending cap
- Diplomas of Distinction

The members of the Subcommittee also plan on including the following proposals:

- A proposal for the capital construction program totaling \$2.6 billion:
 - \$1.8 billion for the city of New York
 - \$400 million for high needs school districts outside of New York City to be distributed on a per pupil basis
 - An additional \$400 million for the remaining school districts to be distributed on a per pupil basis
 - In addition, we are proposing increasing the cap for the Transitional Finance Authority by \$9.4 billion to help fund the cost of New York City's current capital plan. We also propose securitizing building aid payments, for the projects in such plan, to the City to support such increase.
- A proposal addressing the provision of school health services in the "Big 4" City school districts
- A proposal providing for the reconstruction of schools in the Syracuse City School District
- A proposal which provides for the creation of the New York State Cultural Education Trust (NYCET)



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