

Research and Educational Services

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Legislative Budget Restores Over \$1 Billion to Education

Thanks in part to an aggressive effort by NYSUT's Legislative Department, and despite strenuous opposition from Governor Pataki, both the Senate and the Assembly have passed a state budget that would restore over \$1 Billion in State Aid to Education. Since Pataki is likely to veto the budget bills, a legislative override would be necessary for the restorations to become law.

In January, Governor Pataki, in his Executive Budget, proposed a net decrease of \$1.24 billion (8.5%) in General Support for Public Schools. With the restorations made by the Legislature, the overall school aid will be \$186 million (1.3%) less than last year. District-specific information is available through NYSUT's website at www.nysut.org.

The following details the changes that the Legislature included in their budget, compared with the Executive Budget.

	LEGISLATIVE BUDGET	EXECUTIVE BUDGET
COMPUTERIZED AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reduction of \$206 million (-1.48 percent) in computerized aids. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reduction of \$1.23 billion (-8.77 percent) in computerized aids.
NEW CONSOLIDATED OPERATING AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ \$6.84 billion in 2003-04 school year, a decrease of \$285 million (-4%). ▶ Combines 4 aid formulas: operating aid, operating standards aid, gifted and talented aid, and academic support aid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ \$9.76 billion in 2003-04 school year, a decrease of \$406.75 million (-4%). ▶ Combines 9 aid formulas: operating aid, extraordinary needs aid, operating standards aid, gifted and talented aid, educationally related support services aid, limited English proficiency aid, summer school aid, academic support aid, and public excess cost aid.
BOCES & SHARED SERVICES AID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Funded at \$644 million for 2003-04, an increase of \$22 million (3.64%). ▶ Rejected the elimination of BOCES Aid as a separate aid category beginning in 2005-06. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Funded at \$509 million for 2003-04, a decrease of \$114 million (-18.3%). ▶ Eliminates BOCES Aid as a separate aid category beginning in 2005-06.

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

- TEACHERS OF TOMORROW** ▶ Reduced from \$25 million to \$20 million for 2003-04.
- TEACHER SUPPORT AID** ▶ Funded at \$67.48 million.
- TEACHER CENTERS** ▶ Funded at \$31 million.
- TEACHER MENTOR-INTERN PROGRAM** ▶ Funded at \$4 million, a cut of \$1 million (reappropriations may offset this reduction).
- TRANSPORTATION AID** ▶ Funded at \$1.093 billion, an increase of \$93 million (9.34%).
- BUILDING AID** ▶ Funded at \$1.168 billion for 2003-04, a decrease of \$115 million. \$50 million reduction from Present Law.
▶ Rejected all of the Governor's Building Aid Proposals.
- UNIVERSAL PREK** ▶ Funded at \$201 million.
▶ \$3.6 million available in additional Universal PreK funding.
- EARLY GRADE CLASS SIZE REDUCTION** ▶ Funded at \$136.4 million.
▶ \$3.5 million available in additional EGCSR funding.
- PRIOR YEAR AID CLAIMS** ▶ Funded at \$90 million, an increase of \$33 million.
- EXCESS COST AID** ▶ Fully restored both Public and Private Excess Cost Aid to present law levels.
▶ Funded at \$2.33 billion, an increase of \$42.9 million (1.88%).
- "PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE"** ▶ Eliminated the proposed \$6 million in state funding for the Charter School Stimulus Fund.
- SCHOOL SPENDING CAP** ▶ Rejected all of the Governor's proposals for a school spending cap for every district.
- STAR** ▶ Rejected the Governor's proposal to cap the STAR benefit for non-senior homeowners.

EXECUTIVE BUDGET

- ▶ Reduced from \$25 million to \$20 million for 2003-04.
- ▶ Funded at \$22.49 million, a cut of \$45 million.
- ▶ Funded at \$10 million, a cut of \$21 million.
- ▶ Funded at \$1.67 million, a cut of \$3.33 million.
- ▶ Funded at \$991.25 million.
- ▶ Funded at \$1.11 billion for 2003-04, a decrease of \$144 million.
▶ Established a "Priority Pool" for all projects approved by SED after 2/1/03.
- ▶ Eliminated—a cut of \$200.91 million.
- ▶ Eliminated—a cut of \$134.56 million.
- ▶ Funded at \$90 million, an increase of \$33 million.
- ▶ Decreased Private Excess Cost by \$70.68 million.
▶ Eliminated separate aid formula for Public Excess Cost Aid through inclusion in the Consolidated Operating Aid.
- ▶ \$6 million in state funding for Charter School Stimulus Fund proposed.
- ▶ ALL school districts would have their annual spending increases capped at the lesser of 4 percent or 120 percent of the CPI.
- ▶ STAR benefit will be capped for non-senior homeowners at the 2002-03 level.

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