



NYSSBA 2026-27 Senate One House Analysis

Foundation Aid – The Senate accepts the executive proposal to fully fund the existing Foundation Aid formula. In addition, the Senate proposes to raise the due minimum increase to 2%, add a new formula weighting for homeless students and students in foster care (0.12) and increase the weighting for English language learners from 0.53 to 0.60. The Senate’s proposal also fully funds the cost of school aid database updates.

In addition, the Senate’s budget resolution states the house’s support for continued “review of the Foundation Aid formula,” including proposals to “update the Regional Cost Index and weighting for students with disabilities.” The Senate’s budget resolution also expresses support for FAPE22 funding, to support school district costs associated with providing a continued free and appropriate education for students with disabilities until age 22.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten – The Senate generally accepts the executive proposal to fund a universal 4-year-old prekindergarten proposal statewide, which would include a requirement that school districts provide for a full-day prekindergarten seat for any eligible child whose parent or guardian seeks to enroll them, by 2028-29. The Senate’s proposal would also allow non-profits, charter schools, libraries and museums as eligible providers. In addition, the Senate proposes to make prekindergarten transportation aidable.

Math Literacy – The Senate accepts the executive proposal to direct the State Education Department to provide school districts with instructional best practices for numeracy and the teaching of mathematics to students in kindergarten through fifth grade, and to require school districts to annually review and verify that their curriculum and instructional best practices are aligned with the Department’s.

High Impact Tutoring – The Senate accepts the Executive’s appropriation of \$9 million to support high impact tutoring, but goes further by outlining the number of students per tutoring group, the frequency of tutoring sessions per week, and other requirements that school districts and charter schools would need to adhere to in order to be eligible for this new grant.

Teacher Pipeline – The Senate increases the Executive’s appropriation for “teachers of tomorrow awards” to school districts and sets aside \$5 million for a newly proposed “underrepresented teachers of tomorrow tuition reimbursement program” to attract prospective teachers who have participated in “grow your own” initiatives, My Brother’s Keeper, the teacher opportunities corps program, or other similar programs. The Senate also accepts the executive budget proposal that would appropriate nearly \$2 million for accelerated teacher preparation pathway programs meant to target career changers and other interested individuals.

Student Health and Mental Health - The Senate proposes to permanently carve-out School-Based Health Centers from Medicaid Managed Care, and rejects the executive proposal to allow school boards to hire physician assistants to serve as school health service directors.

School Meals - The Senate proposes changes to the local food purchasing incentive that currently provides some school food authorities (SFA) additional reimbursement if 30% of their school lunch purchases come from New York growers and producers. The change would allow school districts to include breakfast and snack purchases into their 30% calculation, which could increase participation. The Senate proposal would increase the state appropriation for this by an additional \$54 million.

Zero-Emission School Bus Transition – The Senate proposes to earmark \$100 million from the Sustainable Futures Program for the purchase of supporting infrastructure for zero-emission school buses. Additionally, the Senate proposes to allow building aid for incremental zero-emission school bus infrastructure costs required for the storage, charging and operation of such buses. This proposal is generally consistent with S.6221 (Mayer)/A.8035 (Kassay).

Prior Year Aid Claims - The Senate proposes appropriating \$18.6 million to fund prior year aid claim payments.

Library Materials Aid – The Senate proposes to increase the library material aid factor from \$6.25 per pupil to \$11.33 per pupil.

Community Schools – The Senate proposes an additional \$105 million in categorical aid to bolster support for community schools programs and strategies. The Senate proposal also defines community schools, offers different frameworks, and directs NYSED to put forth requirements for the use of community schools grants. The proposal would set aside \$5 million for the United Federation of Teachers, and allocate the remaining funds to school districts that currently have community schools set-asides within their Foundation Aid amounts.

Aid Claims Restriction and Database Freeze - The Senate rejects the executive proposal to freeze state aid payments on a permanent basis to a maximum payment of those included in the school aid runs supporting the executive budget proposal based on the November database.

Special Education Cost Shift - The Senate accepts the executive proposal to permanently eliminate the state share of costs related to Committee on Special Education (CSE) placements for districts outside of New York City, and transfer the state's responsibility for maintenance costs of state-operated schools for the blind and deaf onto school districts.

New York City Mayoral Control – The Senate rejects the executive's proposed four-year extension of mayoral control.

Building Aid - The Senate proposes to increase the cost limit for capital outlay construction projects from \$100,000 to \$250,000, and to allow the threshold to cover to multiple projects. The Senate also proposes targeted adjustments to current building aid formulas to enhance such aid for certain high needs school districts.

Transportation Aid – In addition to proposing prekindergarten transportation to be aidable, the Senate proposes targeted adjustments to current transportation aid formulas to enhance such aid for certain high needs school districts. The Senate’s proposal also allows the state Big 5 city school districts to qualify for child safety zones for the purposes of transportation aid.

Renewable Energy Projects – The Senate proposes to continue the Sustainable Futures Program, including an earmark of \$300 million for school decarbonization projects, with \$200 million for retrofitting HVAC and boiler systems and \$100 million for solar projects. The Senate also accepts the executive proposal to confirm and clarify that certain renewable energy projects are eligible for building aid and included within a district’s cost allowance calculation.

Pension Reform – The Senate’s budget resolution expresses support for undefined reforms to the current public system, stating support for continued reforms to “Tier 6 to provide improved benefits to Tier 6 members and address recruitment and retention challenges in public service.”

Special Schools – The Senate proposes compounded interim tuition rate increases for special act school districts and preschool special education programs to ensure funding growth is sustained year over year. The Senate also proposes that these schools receive guaranteed annual tuition rate increases and are authorized to retain fund balances. Finally, the Senate proposes \$30 million in Excessive Teacher Turnover Grants that support the teachers working in these schools.

Academic Enhancements – The Senate proposes to increase a longstanding appropriation that subsidizes the cost of advanced placement and international baccalaureate exam fees for low-income students from \$5.8 million a year to \$7.8 million. The Senate proposal would also reinstate \$14 million for P-TECH and Smart Scholars Transfer grants that support early college high school programs that were excluded from this year’s executive budget.

Artificial Intelligence Literacy Grant - The Senate proposes the creation of a \$10 million artificial intelligence (AI) digital literacy competitive grant program. The program would support teacher training, partnerships with the private sector and the development of AI labs.

School District Reorganization Grants – The Senate proposes to extend the existing Local Government Citizens Reorganization Empowerment Grant Program to school districts that have already voted by the usual process to reorganize, consolidate, or annex.

Stopping Illegal Homegrown Guns & Extending Orders of Protection - The Senate generally accepts the executive proposal to create new criminal penalties for the manufacture of 3-D printed “ghost guns” or parts, the sale of guns that can be readily modified into automatic weapons, and the sale of digital ghost gun instructions with unlawful intent. In addition, the Senate accepts the executive proposal to require courts to extend temporary orders of protection against a defendant when that defendant fails to appear in court. Currently, such extension is at the court’s discretion.

Protecting Sensitive Locations - The Senate rejects the executive’s proposals to protect sensitive locations, including schools, from interference from civil immigration enforcement action and the executive proposal to prohibit drone use within 500 feet of a school.

Market-Based Interest Rate on Court Judgments - The Senate rejects the executive proposal to tie the interest rate on civil judgments and accrued claims to a market-based interest rate. Current law caps the rate at a maximum of 9%

Modifications to STAR Eligibility Requirements - The Senate accepts the Executive’s proposed technical modifications to STAR. These include clarifying that the age requirements for the enhanced STAR exemption applies beginning with tax year 2026, basing STAR credit eligibility on homeownership status as of July 1 to synchronize it with the actual legal eligibility date, and re-enacting the subsection of law that contains that enabling language for the allowance of the credit itself, which was inadvertently repealed last year.