

Highlights of Governor Cuomo's Proposed FY2014-2015 Budget

Prekindergarten: The Governor's Executive budget proposes \$100 million for 2014-15, as part of what the Governor envisions as a 5-year plan to expand full-day Universal Prekindergarten in New York State with an additional \$100 million per year (\$1.5 billion over five years). This is an increase over the \$25 million in new prekindergarten funding in the 2013-2014 enacted budget. The Governor used strong language regarding his aspiration to improve educational outcomes and economic development with prekindergarten that is statewide, full-day, of high quality and universal.

Smart Schools Bond: The Governor's proposed budget includes a \$2 billion bond to be brought before voters in November 2014. The bond could support education technology in schools, including infrastructure improvements for high-speed broadband, and could also support construction of prekindergarten classrooms.

After-School Programs: The Governor proposes an increased commitment of \$720 million over 5 years, starting in 2015-16, to expand after-school programs, but does not propose new after-school funding in this year's budget. Again, the Governor strongly articulated the importance of after-school programs and this amount would represent a significant increase in funding. It is important to commit real state dollars this year toward the needed ramp-up in enrichment opportunities for students.

Community Schools: The 2014-15 Executive Budget proposes funding for community school grants (\$15M in SED's budget). This funding, administered by the Council on Children and Families, would be awarded to local school districts to improve student outcomes and strengthen communities by using school buildings to provide community-based programming. These will include co-located or school-linked academic, health, nutrition, counseling, legal and/or other such services to students and their families. Awards will be granted via a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, and individual school awards shall not exceed \$500,000.

Child Care Subsidies: The Governor's proposed budget increases child care subsidies by \$21 million to pay for market rate increases.

Maternal and Infant Home Visiting: The Governor's proposed budget continues flat funding for Healthy Families New York at \$23.3 million.

Open-Ended Preventive Funding: The Governor's proposed budget maintains funding for preventive, protective, adoption administration and services, independent living and after care services at 62% state share with an allocation of \$635,073,000, as did the enacted 2013-2014 budget. Localities use Preventive funding to prevent the need for foster care placements.

Pay for Success or “Social Impact Bonds”: These are private/public partnerships to fund outcomes-driven human services programs. The Governor’s proposed budget allocates \$125 million which is an increase over the \$30 million in the 2013-14 budget. New initiatives will be undertaken in the areas of early childhood development and child welfare, health care, public safety, and developing solutions to reduce homelessness.