



For Immediate Release  
November 30, 2015

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## **NYSASBO 2016-17 School Aid Proposal: Fulfilling the Education Promise**

The New York State Association of School Business Officials (NYSASBO) released its 2016-17 School Aid Proposal which calls for a \$2.4 billion increase in school aid that would improve adequacy, equity, and transparency so that districts can provide students with the opportunity to graduate career and college ready.

The proposal includes \$434 million to completely phase-out the last remnant of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) that was imposed in 2010 to address a state budget deficit that no longer exists. It also includes \$800 million to phase-in the Foundation Aid formula that was established in 2007 but frozen in 2009, and currently underfunded by \$4.4 billion. The remaining Foundation Aid owed would be paid down at \$1.2 billion for each of the next three years, so that the formula would be fully funded by 2019.

The proposal also highlights that school districts are at risk of seeing no increase in local revenues next year, because the state's property tax cap law ties allowable tax levy growth to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or inflationary rate that has remained near zero this past year. Because the tax cap is based on the previous year's CPI, it would restrict districts to no increase even though inflation next year is expected to rise. NYSASBO recommends that the state either tie the tax cap instead to a consistent two percent, doing away with the challenging inflationary measure, or provide districts with an additional \$405 million to make up for the lack of local revenues.

NYSASBO also makes suggestions for targeted funding to enhance or improve specific programs, including an increase that aims to make Career and Technical Education more affordable for districts. It recommends that the state provide additional funding for schools that are required to meet additional demands under the new school receivership program. A number of other recommendations seek to pay school districts the money that they are owed in a timely and fair manner.

"New York State needs to fulfill its promises to public education and remove the financial obstacles that have prevented all students in our public schools from achieving their potential," stated NYSASBO Executive Director Michael Borges. "It is time for the state to be a true partner and provide districts with the money that is owed to them under state law. Obstacles such as the GEA and a zero percent tax cap will continue to undermine the financial stability of our educational system and its ability to provide a quality education to all students. School business officials are prepared to invest wisely toward the greatest possible future for our students, but they need sufficient funding in order to do so. NYSASBO proposes a plan to get us back on track toward adequacy and equity at a cost that taxpayers can afford."

The 2016-2017 School Aid Proposal can be found on NYSASBO's website at <http://www.nysasbo.org/page/nysasbo-reports--511.html> .