

Keeping the promise for

EDUCATION JUSTICE

In 2023, we're carrying forward our fight for education justice for New York's children and families: in creating truly universal child care, ensuring our public schools are supportive and safe for all students, and winning the third and final year of the Foundation Aid phase-in — a historic milestone for New York State's public schools.

These are the pillars of our fight for New York's children and families in 2023.

FULLY FUNDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Fund 100% of
Foundation Aid
to All Districts**
\$2.7 billion

Thirty years after the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit was filed and 16 years after the Foundation Aid formula was enacted, this year **New York State is on track to fully fund public schools — for the first time in its history — with a \$2.7 billion increase in Foundation Aid and bring more funding to Black, brown and low income students.**

And, to ensure that the Foundation Aid increase goes to the schools serving the majority of students — and does not get diverted to privately run charter schools — **the State must maintain the existing cap on charters in New York City.**

**Update the
Foundation
Aid Formula**

The Foundation Aid formula was created over a decade ago, and does not fully capture the current cost of educating students. **It is time for New York State to conduct a new costing out study and update the formula.** The budget must provide the State Education Department with \$1 million in resources to engage education finance experts to evaluate and revise the Foundation Aid formula while maintaining the principles of equity, along with meaningful public engagement.

EXPANDING EARLY CARE & LEARNING

Move Closer to Universal Child Care \$5 billion

Advancing universal child care means **investing in child care educators** and program providers so they can have a thriving income, and to ensure stability and continuity for learning for children, which in turn will preserve quality of care and learning. To serve their communities, the child care workforce needs investments in the form of wage increase, benefits and adequate rates.

We must continue **expanding access to child care assistance to more families** — **regardless of immigration status**. And we must **break down unnecessary barriers** for families and providers, for example, simplifying the application for child care assistance, and paying programs based on enrollment.

Continue the Momentum in Full Day pre-K

School districts that were early adopters of Universal Pre-K are still being funded at rates from 30 years ago. Those districts must receive enough funding from the state so that they can continue to meet those students' needs. Many community based organizations contracted by school districts to administer the pre-K programs do not receive enough funding to pay teachers a thriving wage.

Pre-K funding must be distributed equitably to all programs, including family child care programs, to ensure continuity of learning for children that honors families' choice. **Preschool special education** must be adequately funded.

BUILDING A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

Pass the Solutions Not Suspensions Act

The overuse of suspensions fuels the school to prison pipeline and disproportionately impacts Black and Brown students, students with disabilities, and LGBTQIA students. We must invest in practices that build trust and positive relationships and help students stay in school. **The Solutions Not Suspension Act (S1040)** is common-sense legislation that would set basic statewide standards to make suspensions a last resort, and restorative justice the standard.

We call on the New York State Senate and Assembly to prioritize **New York's children and families in this year's state budget...**

...by creating truly **universal child care**, ensuring public schools are **supportive and safe** for all students, and completing the third and final year of the **Foundation Aid** phase-in.