



Monroe County School Boards Association

Position Paper: Rethinking Public School Building Aid

The New York State Building Aid formula is outdated. It is based on antiquated data and rigid, classroom-driven metrics that do not align with the critical facility needs of today.

MCSBA requests: Our membership calls for reforms to make the NYS building aid system more equitable, efficient, and responsive to modern needs.

- **The Outdated Formula:** It fails to fund critical projects for student safety (secure entryways, alert systems), health mandates (air quality, new Heat Mitigation Protocols), and key state priorities (Career and Technical Education and UPK classrooms).
- **Inflexible Rules and Insufficient Funding:** Funding is well below what a high quality, universal, program would cost.
- **Fund Real Costs and Modern Needs:** Allow flexibility for districts to implement a program that would make increased access for students possible.

ISSUES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The safety and security needs of our buildings (e.g., secure double entryways, shatter-resistant glass, modern alert systems) are not aligned with the current classroom-driven formula. ● The 2025 Heat Mitigation Protocols will require many buildings to undertake significant capital improvements to comply with the new guidelines and meet the 180-day instructional threshold. ● We cannot meet community demand for CTE programs because our BOCES facilities are at capacity. Districts need funding to create the highly specialized instructional spaces these programs require. ● UPK is out of reach for many districts simply due to a lack of usable space that meets the unique requirements for our youngest learners. ● The formulas rely on antiquated data, which misrepresents a district's current financial need. ● State guidance documents from Facilities Planning are outdated and need to be modernized. 	<p>Modernize the Funding Formula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Fund Safety: Align the Building Aid formula with the unique safety and security needs of each district, similar to how BAUs (building aid units) are granted for secure vestibules. → Fund Health & Environment: Allow building aid to be used for modern infrastructure like energy-efficient upgrades, clean heating systems, and air quality improvements. This will help districts comply with the new heat mitigation law. → Base Aid on Buildings, Not Just Enrollment: Infrastructure upgrades should be based on the building's needs, not on enrollment numbers. → Fix Cost Classifications: Identify energy-efficient solar panels as construction costs, not incidental costs, to ensure they are properly aidable. <p>Fund State Priorities (CTE & UPK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Prioritize CTE funding for modern equipment and technology. Ensure equipment costs are identified as construction costs to be eligible for aid. → Change the BAU rate for UPK to better align with the specific class size requirements of the program. <p>Fund the Real Cost of Construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Raise Cost Allowances: Increase the state's cost allowances to reflect the real-world costs necessary to complete a capital project. → Increase Capital Outlay: Raise the capital outlay amount to align with the current costs of doing business. → Use Current Data: Utilize a current construction cost index that accurately reflects the full duration of a project. <p>Streamline the Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Reduce Paperwork: Simplify the submission process for building project documentation to NYSED to reduce delays and improve transparency.