



ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL
BUSINESS OFFICIALS

The 2026-27 State Budget: What It Means for Your School District

February 11, 2026

Brian Cechnicki, Executive Director, ASBO New York

Overall State Budget

- Overall fiscal outlook much improved since the summer
- Baseline (pre-proposal) forecast showed a \$5.9 billion surplus over two years.
- Next outyear gap declining from \$10 billion to \$6 billion
- 0.7% increase in total spending to \$260 billion (state portion increasing more)
- Additional increases to state fund balances planned, amounting to over \$15 billion

School Aid

- \$1.33 billion, or 3.5% in traditional School Aid
- \$1.65 billion, or 4.3% when including unallocated assumptions in UPK and Building Aid
- Foundation Aid + Expense-based Aids = Same as November Current Law, except with a 1% minimum in Foundation Aid

Foundation Aid Changes

- Current Law Changes Over Last Year:
 - CPI: 2.8% increase (likely 2.7% in Enacted Budget)
- Other Changes:
 - 1% minimum increase for all districts

Foundation Aid Changes – Data Driven

District	Save Harmless/1%	Weighted Enrollment Since Last Year	Aid Per Pupil Since Last Year
Connetquot	Yes	↑1.6%	↓0.3%
Greenport	Yes	↓3.3%	↓10.2%
Longwood	No - ↑1.5%	↑0.6%	↑1.1%
Mattituck-Cutchogue	Yes	↓1.1%	N/A
Mount Sinai	Yes	↓2.0%	↓2.3%
Patchogue-Medford	Yes	↓1.0%	↓0.1%
Remsenburg-Speonk	Yes	↑7.4%	N/A
Shoreham-Wading River	Yes	↑0.3%	↓4.0%
South Country	Yes	↓1.5%	↑0.6%
Tuckahoe	Yes	↓4.3%	N/A
William Floyd	No - ↑3.2%	↑0.5%	↑2.1%

Foundation Aid – The Road Not Traveled

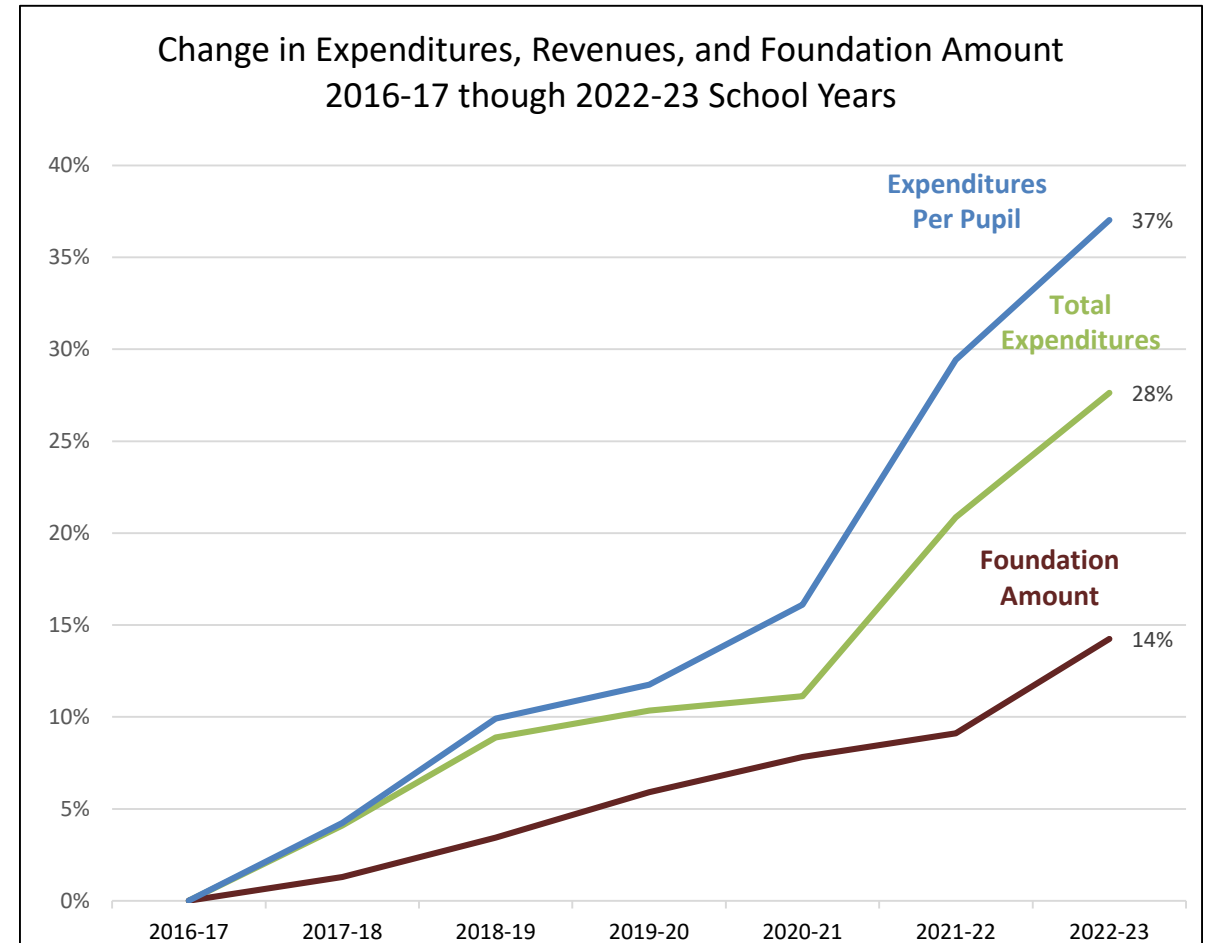
- Formula changes made in 2025:
 - Replaced Census Poverty with SAIPE
 - Replaced FRPL with Economically Disadvantaged
 - Modified Westchester RCI
 - Modified SSR Tier 2
 - Modestly Increased ELL weighting

Foundation Aid – The Road Not Traveled

- Changes still being sought by advocates
 - Updating the Successful Schools Study
 - Fully updating RCI
 - Additional ELL/Homeless weighting
 - Some adjustment for fixed costs and the tax cap
 - Addressing Special Education Costs

Foundation Aid – The Road Not Traveled

- Updating the Successful Schools Study
 - Inflation not keeping pace
 - Expectations have risen
 - Success measures have changed
 - Would likely increase formula amount for all districts



Foundation Aid – The Road Not Traveled

- Updating the RCI to CWIFT
 - Moves from region to district-specific
 - Updates annually
 - Would decouple Long Island from NYC and reduce level to more like Hudson Valley

	Current	CWIFT
Connetquot	1.425	1.408
Greenport	1.425	1.408
Longwood	1.425	1.408
Mattituck-Cutchogue	1.425	1.408
Mount Sinai	1.425	1.408
Patchogue-Medford	1.425	1.408
Remsenburg-Speonk	1.425	1.408
Shoreham-Wading River	1.425	1.408
South Country	1.425	1.408
Tuckahoe	1.425	1.408
William Floyd	1.425	1.408

Foundation Aid – The Road Not Traveled

- Additional ELL/Homeless Weightings
 - Rockefeller Institute proposed a graduated scale of weightings based on services (likely impossible to model)
 - NYSED has proposed additional weighting for students experiencing homelessness

Foundation Aid – The Road Not Traveled

- Fixed Costs
 - Formula is per-pupil based; few pupils means more local revenue per pupil and less aid
 - How to account for fixed costs of running a district no matter the enrollment?
- Tax Cap
 - Local share was adopted before tax cap, assumes a level of property wealth increase that translates into tax levy
 - Does not consider levy limitations

Foundation Aid – The Road Not Traveled

- Special Education
 - Pre-2007 was separately funded
 - Rolled into Foundation Aid as a weighting
 - Some harmless districts may have increasing special education costs, but receive no additional aid as a result
 - Some advocacy for separating out as a standalone formula again

Expense-based Aid Changes

- No changes proposed (other than Renewable Energy Projects)
 - Any decrease on your aid runs is data-driven

Building Aid for Renewable Energy Projects

- Would allow costs associated with approved renewable energy projects to be considered in the calculation of maximum cost allowance
- Projects include:
 - solar photovoltaic or thermal systems, whether ground-mounted or roof-mounted;
 - geothermal systems; and
 - other commercially proven and cost-effective renewable energy technologies pursuant to regulations of the commissioner
- Does not include transportation aided capital expenses
- Ground-mounted renewable energy projects must be sited to minimize impacts on athletic fields, outdoor educational spaces, and natural areas serving the school
- Aidable portion of the project limited to 110% of building's baseline energy consumption (in other words: no Building Aid for revenue generated renewable energy projects)

Universal Prekindergarten (UPK)

- Proposal would both:
 - Significantly increase funding for all districts; and
 - Mandate all districts to provide, by 2028-29, full-day UPK to any 4-year-old whose parents request it

UPK “Under the Hood”

- Consolidates Statewide Universal Full-day Prekindergarten (SUFDPK) and UPK
- No cap on number of slots (in fact, mandate is for as many as need to be served)
- Aid per pupil now the greater of \$10,000 or your Selected Foundation Aid Per Pupil
- Beginning in 2028-29, all slots offered must be for full-day; no half-day allowed

UPK “Under the Hood”

- State Aid run for 2026-27 is using 2024-25 pupils served multiplied by the new per pupil aid level
- It is not a maximum; however, it is subject to the standard aid run/payment freeze process (such as the per pupil amount being frozen on May 15th)
- Aid will continue to increase as more pupils are served
- Programs are not assumed to be fully-funded by state aid; a local share will likely be required, depending on your program

Funding and Policies NOT Included

- Prior Year Adjustments
- Changes to Zero Emission Bus Implementation
- Increase in Capital Outlay Exemption
- Extension of Piggybacking
- Allowing Piggybacking on Public Works Projects

What We're Hearing

In-person Advocacy Day – February 3

- Expect the UPK mandate in some form
- More than a 1% minimum is possible depending on revenue/governor
- Foundation Aid formula runs as is—amounts could decrease with February data
- Any changes to electric bus mandate this year are unlikely

What's Next

- **Feb 15:** School Aid Database Update (this will be used in the April budget)
- **Feb 26:** ASBO New York Virtual Advocacy Summit (register today!)
- **Mar 1:** Revenue Consensus Deadline
- **Early Mar:** One-House Budgets expected
- **April 1:** New Fiscal Year begins