



TO: P-12 Education Committee
FROM: Elizabeth R. Berlin
SUBJECT: 2020-21 Non-State Aid Budget and Legislative Priorities
DATE: October 24, 2019
AUTHORIZATION(S): *Elizabeth R. Berlin*

SUMMARY

Issues for Discussion

The Regents advance Non-State Aid budget and legislative requests every year, which reflect initiatives that support the Board's priorities by augmenting or adding funds to the State Education Department's budget. These funds are necessary so that the Department has the resources it needs to meet the Board's policy priorities.

At the September meeting, the Regents Subcommittee on State Aid reviewed and discussed proposals advanced during the 2019-20 budget cycle and legislative session. At the October meeting, the relevant committees of the Board reviewed and discussed the previous Non-State Aid proposals and identified and discussed new initiatives for consideration. Updated proposals are coming back to the committees for further consideration in November and will come before the full Board in December for approval.

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review and update of the Regent's Non-State Aid budget and legislative priorities.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Regents have final discussions about proposals to include in the Board's 2020-21 Non-State Aid budget and legislative priorities.

Attachment

2020-21 Potential Non-State Aid Budget Priorities – P-12

Proposal Description	Amount of Proposed Request	Policy Area	New or Previous Proposal?
<p>Promotion of School Safety, Positive School Climate and Bullying Prevention- Increasing the Safe and Supportive Schools Grants Program. Expand the capacity of Department staff to provide guidance to and monitor school district compliance with school safety emergency response planning, DASA and ESSA accountability requirements regarding chronic absenteeism and school suspension. Increase the capacity of the Center for School Safety and Supportive Schools Technical Assistance Centers to provide on-site technical assistance and resources for schools to be able to assess their current school climate and provide them with the support necessary to develop and implement and measure a plan, derived from evidence-based strategies and best practices, for improving school culture, climate, and safety, and prevention of and responses to bullying and ensuring and enhancing DASA compliance.</p>	<p>\$3.4M</p>	<p>Equity</p>	<p>\$8M proposed by the Board in 2019-20; \$2M added by Legislature in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 enacted budgets.</p>
<p>Supporting Newly Identified Schools- Funding to facilitate training for Comprehensive Supports and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools and to provide individualized support to 150 CSI schools.</p>	<p>\$3.5M</p>	<p>ESSA</p>	<p>\$3.5M proposed by the Board in 2019-20.</p>

Proposal Description	Amount of Proposed Request	Policy Area	New or Previous Proposal?
<p>Access to High-Quality Early Education and Early Care Programs- Implementation of the recommendations of the Regents Early Childhood Workgroup’s Blue Ribbon Committee:</p> <p>Establishment of Regional Early Learning Technical Assistance Centers:</p> <p>Establishment of three Prekindergarten – Grade 2 (P2) Technical Assistance Centers (TACs) to provide professional development and support to school districts in New York State. The goal is to add an additional three P2 TACs in subsequent years; an eventual total of six TACs.</p>	\$1.6M	Early Learning	<p>\$2M proposed by the Board in 2019-20; \$475,000 added by Legislature in the 2019-20 enacted budget for a Long Island Pre-K Initiative (Nassau BOCES- not aligned with or overseen by SED).</p>
<p>Access to High-Quality Early Education and Early Care Programs- Implementation of the recommendations of the Regents Early Childhood Workgroup’s Blue Ribbon Committee:</p> <p>Elevating Teacher and Leader Preparation and Professional Learning</p>	\$TBD	Early Learning	<p>\$2.5M proposed by the Board in 2019-20 to replicate the Quality Universally Inclusive Early Responsive Education model. Revised request will be finalized working with co-chair Regents Young and Reyes following the NASBE focus group meetings that end during November.</p>
<p>Addressing Teacher Shortages in Approved Private Schools Serving Students with Disabilities and Special Act School Districts-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for a Pipeline to Incentivize Special Education Provider Staff to Obtain Appropriate Certifications - \$2M • Student Loan Forgiveness Funds - \$2M for a teacher loan forgiveness program for private special education provider staff 	\$4M	Early Learning	<p>New proposals. 2019-20 Board initiatives included \$2M for a pipeline to incentivize special education staff in private and Special Act schools to obtain appropriate certifications and \$4M to expand Excessive Teacher Turnover Prevention Compensation Funding.</p>

Proposal Description	Amount of Proposed Request	Policy Area	New or Previous Proposal?
<p>Ensuring Equal Opportunities for English Language Learners/Multilingual Learners- Enhancing Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network support centers (RBERNs) professional development, technical assistance, compliance support, and role in providing translations, to meet ESSA's mandates and goals regarding ELL/MLL achievement.</p>	\$1.6M	ELLs	<p>\$2.375M proposed by the Board in 2019-20. Proposal revised to expand staff at NYSED's eight Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) support centers allowing them to increase the amount of support services they provide to school districts throughout New York State.</p>
<p>Ensuring the Appropriate Provision of English Language Learner Services- Creating a new English Language Proficiency assessment for English Language Learners with Severe Cognitive Disabilities. This assessment is needed to bring NYS in compliance with ESSA's requirement to accurately measure the English language proficiency of this special population of students. (\$2M each year for at least 3 years)</p>	\$2M	ELLs/ESSA	<p>\$2M proposed by the Board in 2019-20.</p>
<p>Blue Ribbon Committee on Diploma Requirements- This Committee will review research, practice and policy to gather input from statewide stakeholders on diploma requirements to ensure all students have access to multiple graduation measures. The funding request would support a project manager who will lead the committee meetings to gather recommendations and the event costs associated with the statewide Committee meetings.</p>	\$200,000 (annually for 2 years)	Equity	<p>New proposal.</p>

Proposal Description	Amount of Proposed Request	Policy Area	New or Previous Proposal?
<p>Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (STLE)- funding to implement initiatives to strategically further develop K-12 teachers and principals, with the goal of providing all students with access to the most effective educators.</p>	\$TBD	Equity	<p>Between 2012 and 2015, 221 LEAs participated in the STLE grant program supported with \$83M in federal Race to the Top funding. As part of its 2015-16 Regents State Aid Proposal, the Board recommended \$80M in targeted funding for instructional improvement programs, of which a portion would have extended the STLE program for additional rounds of the STLE grants and a portion would have expanded the cadre of teachers prepared and certified to address the needs of English Language Learners.</p>
<p>Creating a Special Education and Related Services Data System- Additional funding to support Phase II of the system development (a contract to build the system).</p>	\$3.46M - which will cover costs for 2 years	Efficiency	<p>\$3.46M (across two years) proposed by the Board in 2019-20.</p>
<p>Improving Facilities System Services- Additional funding complete the analysis, development, testing, data migration and implementation of the replacement PMIS system.</p>	\$500,000	Efficiency	<p>\$300,000 proposed by the Board in 2019-20. Funding request has been updated.</p>

Proposal Description	Amount of Proposed Request	Policy Area	New or Previous Proposal?
<p>Education Finance Data System- Funding to support Phase II, which involves consolidating more than 50 different legacy systems and moving all technology off the mainframe. The request is for a total of \$41M across four years, of which \$23.7M would fund the cost to build the system; \$6.5M would fund the staffing cost for the SED project team; and \$10.8M would fund maintenance and support. \$5.7M would be needed for the annual cost of ongoing maintenance and support of the completed system starting in year 5.</p>	<p>\$41M (across 4 years) – year 1 ask is \$11.6M</p>	<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>Funding for the gap analysis was provided in the 2017-18 enacted budget. This is a new proposal to build and implement the new system.</p>
<p>Building Oversight and Support Capacity at SED- Creating a 5% set-aside within all new programs for administrative oversight and technical assistance, as is common in federal grants and programs.</p>	<p>5% set-aside</p>	<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>Proposal was advanced by the Board in 2019-20 (Department-Wide Proposal).</p>
<p>Enhancing Transparency- Webcasting Regular Board of Regents Public Meetings</p>	<p>\$200,000</p>	<p>Efficiency</p>	<p>Proposal was advanced by the Board in 2019-20 (Department-Wide Proposal).</p>
<p>Translations- Funding to support the Department’s need to translate documents into languages other than English, in support of the Department’s goal of making available culturally responsive-sustaining and linguistically accessible resources for the field and public.</p>	<p>\$1.5M</p>	<p>ELLs</p>	<p>New proposal.</p>

2020-21 Potential Non-State Aid Budget and Legislative Priorities – P-12

Proposal Description	Amount of Proposed Request	Policy Area	New or Previous Proposal?
Tuition Rate-Setting Redesign and Funding Parity- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicate Targeted Resources to Design a New Tuition Rate-Setting Methodology - \$1.25M • Create a statutory index to provide parity in annual funding increases for both school-age and preschool providers - \$11.4M 	\$12.65M	Equity	2019-20 Board priorities included a proposal to establish a statutory growth index for Special Act and 853 Schools and to authorize such schools to establish a general reserve fund. Stakeholders were supportive of placing the reserve fund proposal on hold to focus on more comprehensive rate reform.
Implementation of Substantial Equivalency	\$TBD	Equity	New proposal for state resources to support implementation of Substantial Equivalency.

2020 Potential Legislative Priorities – P-12

Proposal Description	Policy Area	New or Previous Proposal?
Mandate Relief and State Aid Claims Flexibility- Providing districts with additional relief and greater flexibility relating to educational management including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the funds available to pay claims in the first-come-first-served queue; • Forgive penalties associated with the late filing of Final Cost Reports for all school district construction projects approved by the Commissioner before July 1, 2011; • Allow districts to lease space outside of the district in certain emergency situations; and • Provide technical changes to outdated statute language. 	Efficiency	2019-20 proposal that would be updated to remove related students with disability provisions so staff can regroup and re-engage stakeholders this upcoming year.

Proposal Description	Policy Area	New or Previous Proposal?
<p>Regional Secondary Schools Advisory Council- Creating a temporary advisory council in order to examine the previously proposed legislation and identify barriers and areas of concern; review regionalization models in other states; identify potential models that would work in New York; and make recommendations.</p>	Efficiency	2019-20 proposal that would be updated to add a possible new provision to the Council's oversight to examine the issue of how to improve/update the local school district merger process.
<p>Increasing Access to College and Affordability for Students through Early College High Schools & PTECH- Codifying SS-ECHS and P-TECH programs and provide a mechanism for the continuation of successful programs outside of a competitive procurement process.</p>	Equity	2019-20 proposal.
<p>Raise the Age - Proposing statutory changes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require the School Districts of Location of a justice system facility to issue a diploma for students who have fulfilled the graduation requirements while placed in the facility. • Create a statutory FERPA exception so that education records can be released from LEAS with written parent consent. 	Equity	New proposal.