



NEWS RELEASE

COALITION CALLS FOR STATE ACTION TO SUPPORT STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

For immediate release

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October 23, 2025 (NEW YORK) — In response to [newly released data](#) showing that more than 150,000 New York City students experienced homelessness last year, the [Coalition for Equitable Education Funding \(CEEf\)](#)—comprised of more than 120 organizations—issued the following statement:

At a time when so many New York City students are experiencing homelessness, it is unacceptable that our State's per pupil education funding formula fails to recognize their unique needs.

The Foundation Aid formula is supposed to ensure that school funding is sufficient and equitably distributed based on student needs. However, while the formula provides additional funding for certain students with additional needs—with added weights for students living in poverty, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities—it offers no additional support to help school districts address the barriers faced by students who are homeless. The formula ignores the needs of students who are homeless despite the latest data showing that more than half of NYC students in temporary housing, and two out of three students in shelter, were chronically absent, and that one in eight students in shelter dropped out of high school—more than three times the dropout rate of students living in permanent housing.

Despite support from a range of elected officials and stakeholders, last year's state budget failed to add a funding weight for students who are homeless. Worse still, despite the significant needs of New York City's students, the limited changes made to the Foundation Aid formula resulted in NYC schools receiving \$315 million less than they would have had the State make no changes to the formula at all—shortchanging NYC students. This shortfall stemmed from an update to the poverty weight—one that ignored both the City's higher cost of living and the urgent needs of the nearly one in seven NYC students without a permanent home. In a city where more than 150,000 students experienced homelessness last year, NYC schools should not continue to be deprived of hundreds of millions of dollars intended for low-income students.

Governor Hochul and the NYS Legislature have an opportunity in the upcoming budget to help address this inequity by adding a per pupil funding weight for students who are homeless to the Foundation Aid formula, as proposed in legislation (S.8139/A.9048) sponsored by Senator John Liu and Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon.

It is long past time for New York State to ensure that its education funding formula deliberately supports students experiencing homelessness. New York must deliver an education funding system that meets the needs of every student—including those who are homeless.

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