



Coalition for Equitable Education Funding

News Release

For immediate release

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Response to the Foundation Aid Formula Changes in the New York State FY 2027 Education Budget Bill

May 20, 2026 (NEW YORK CITY) — *In response to the release of the FY 2027 state education budget bill expected to be approved today, the [Coalition for Equitable Education Funding](#) — comprised of more than 120 organizations — released the following statement:*

We are pleased that the FY 2027 budget updates the Foundation Aid education funding formula to add a new 0.12 weight for students who are homeless or in foster care and to increase the weight for English Language Learners (ELLs) from 0.53 to 0.6. These changes represent important steps forward, particularly after last year's updates resulted in New York City schools receiving \$314 million less from Albany to support low-income students than they otherwise would have. The changes to the weights will drive \$143 million in much-needed funding to New York City, where more than 150,000 students lack a permanent place to call home and where one in every six students is learning English as a new language. We thank the elected officials who worked alongside students, parents, advocates, and educators to ensure these updates made it into the final budget.

At the same time, more changes are still needed to ensure the Foundation Aid formula adequately reflects the needs of today's students and school communities. For example, one long-overdue reform left out of this year's budget is an update to the Regional Cost Index (RCI), which is supposed to account for variations in costs in different parts of the State but is now *two decades* old. Last year's budget revised the RCI for Westchester only, inexplicably leaving New York City's RCI untouched amidst an ongoing affordability crisis that is pushing many low-income and middle-class families out of the five boroughs. We agree with the Senate, which noted in its one-house budget resolution the need for continued review of the formula, including the proposal to update the Regional Cost Index, and ensuring the formula reflects the needs and circumstances of school districts and students.

While there is still work to do to improve the Foundation Aid formula, the updates made in this year's budget help move us closer to an equitable funding system that ensures districts can provide all students with a sound basic education. We thank the elected officials and many New Yorkers who joined with us this budget season and will continue to fight to ensure our students get the resources they need to thrive.