



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

News Release

For immediate release

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Response to Changes to the State Education Funding Formula

May 20, 2026 (NEW YORK CITY) — *Maria Odom, Executive Director of Advocates for Children of New York (AFC), issued the following statement in response to the changes to the Foundation Aid per-pupil funding formula in the FY 2027 New York State education budget bill expected to be passed today:*

We appreciate that the education budget includes long overdue updates to the State's education funding formula, which has remained largely unchanged for almost two decades. We are pleased that State leaders have, for the first time, recognized that schools need additional funding to meet the needs of students who are homeless or in foster care. Adding a new weight for these populations, who face significant barriers to success in school, represents an important step forward. We are also grateful for the inclusion of an increased weight for English Language Learners (ELLs). Together, these changes to the Foundation Aid formula will drive much-needed resources to New York City, where more than 150,000 students experienced homelessness last year and one in every six students is learning English as a new language.

We thank the elected officials, parents, students, educators, and advocates who fought tirelessly for these important updates. While there is more work to do to ensure the formula appropriately reflects rising costs and the full needs of today's students, we appreciate the progress made in this year's budget and look forward to continuing to work together to realize the promise of Foundation Aid: an equitable education funding system that ensures *all* students, including those who need the most support, receive the high-quality education they deserve.

About Advocates for Children of New York (AFC)

Since 1971, Advocates for Children of New York has worked to ensure a high-quality education for New York students who face barriers to academic success, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, disability, race, ethnicity, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. AFC uses four integrated strategies: free advice and legal representation for families of students; free trainings and workshops for parents, communities, and educators and other professionals to equip them to advocate on behalf of students; policy advocacy to effect change in the education system and improve education outcomes; and impact litigation to protect the right to quality education and compel needed reform.