



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

2026 JOINT BUDGET HEARING

January 29, 2026 – 9:30 AM

ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

1. New York State Education Department	Betty A. Rosa Commissioner
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2. New York City Department of Education	Kamar Samuels Chancellor
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Panel A:

3. United Federation of Teachers	Michael Mulgrew President
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4. New York State United Teachers	Melinda Person President
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5. Council of School Supervisors and Administrators	Henry Rubio President
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6. School Administrators Association of NYS	Cynthia Gallagher PhD. Director, Government Relations
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Panel B:

7. Conference of Big 5 School Districts	Jennifer Pyle Executive Director
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8. Buffalo Public Schools	Dr. Pascal Mubenga Superintendent
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9. Rochester City School District	Dr. Eric Rossner Superintendent
10. Syracuse City School District	Pam Odom Superintendent
11. Yonkers Public Schools	Anibal Soler Superintendent
12. City school District of Albany	Joseph Hochreiter Superintendent
13. Mount Vernon City School District	Demario Strickland Superintendent
14. Utica City School District	Christopher Spence Superintendent

Panel C:

15. NYS School Boards Association	Brian Fessler Chief Advocacy Officer
16. Association of School Business Officials of NY	Brian Cechnicki Executive Director
17. NYS Parent Teacher Association	Kyle Belokopitsky Executive Director
18. Rural Schools Association of New York	David Little Executive Director
19. BOCES of New York State	Scott Budelmann Legislative Liaison
20. NYS Community Schools Network	Annie Nelson Policy Analyst
21. Educators for Excellence – New York	Lasana Tunica-El Sr. Deputy Director of Campaigns

Panel D:

22. 4201 Schools Association	Antony McLetchie
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	Co-Chair
23. New York State Coalition of 853 Schools	Joseph Trainor President
24. Advocates for Children of New York	Randi Levine Policy Director
25. NYS Coalition of Special Act School	Stephen Beovich President
26. NY Association on Independent Living	Lindsay Miller Executive Director
27. NYS Alliance for Arts Education	Gully Stanford Policy Co-Chair

Panel E:

28. New York Library Association	Maxwell Prime Director Government Relations and Advocacy
29. New York School Bus Contractors Association	Paul Quinn Mori President
30. Teach My Kid to Read	Marion Waldman Executive Director
31. Association of Public Broadcasting Stations of NY	Anthony Hayes CEO of WMHT
32. Democracy Ready NY	Nan Eileen Mead Co-Executive Director
33. NYS Association of Small City School Districts	Robert Breidenstein Executive Director

Panel F:

34. Teach NYS	Sydney Altfield Executive Director
35. Agudath Israel of America	Rabbi Yeruchim Silber

	Director of New York Governmental Relations
36. NYC Charter School Center	James Merriman Chief Executive Officer
37. NYS council of Catholic School Superintendents	James Cultrara Executive Secretary
38. NYS Association of charter Schools	Anna Hall Chief Operating Officer

Panel G:

39. Alliance for Quality Education	Marina Marcou – O’Malley Interim Co - Executive Director
40. The Education Trust – New York	Arlene Benjamine-Gomez Executive Director
41. Coalition for Equitable Education Funding	Chelsea Baytemur Director of Policy and Advocacy
42. YAFFED	Adina Mermelstein Konikoff Executive Director
43. Youth Vote USA	Gregory Lyakhov Student/Columnist
