

**This moment demands commitment to full funding for NY schools.**

Every year since 2007, a combination of inadequate funding and legislative overlays has dramatically distorted the distribution of Foundation Aid across NY State. Underneath these layers of distortion is a formula that was designed to provide funding equity but was never allowed to run. Currently, only 1% of all NY school districts receive the full amount they are due, and the funding percentage across districts ranges inexplicably from 36% to 1750%. NY must finally commit to a path to full funding. In the short-term, there is an urgent need to lift underfunded districts, limit funding on overfunded districts, and give full credit for metrics of financial need.

**Protect underfunded districts and allow them to catch up**

- **Institute a funding floor of 70% and commit to a path to 100% funding for all districts.** Currently, 2/3 of all school districts in NY are underfunded.
- **Remove restrictions on the amount of increase in funding a district can receive year to year.** This restriction, instituted during the Recession, severely limits a district's ability to catch up. It most disadvantages the districts who receive the lowest percentage of Foundation Aid.

**Increase equity for high poverty districts**

- **Use current numbers for wealth,** not data from the 2000 census
- **Remove restrictions on the consideration of community poverty.** Currently, poverty is credited only to a certain dollar amount in the Foundation Aid formula. This disadvantages communities with profound levels of poverty (like the largest cities).
- **Add homelessness to the list of need metrics.** Homelessness was not included in the original version of the Foundation Aid formula, and needs to be added

**Stop advantaging districts that are extremely wealthy and/or overfunded**

- **Institute a funding freeze for overfunded districts.** This will at least limit the growing overpayment of funds. Also consider abandoning the use of a save harmless rule without limits, which has resulted in one third of NY districts receive more than 100% funding, some more than 10 times what they are due. If feasible, redistribution of the amount that is currently overpaid could bring all districts to 70%.
- **Remove restrictions on the consideration of community wealth.** Currently, wealth is penalized only to a certain dollar amount in the Foundation Aid formula. This cushions communities with extreme wealth from shouldering more of the cost of public education.



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