



April 1, 2016

Good afternoon:

What we hear from Albany is that legislators continue to sign bills to finalize the 2016-17 State Budget. Here is what we know so far as it pertains to education funding:

School Aid will increase by about \$1.47B

- \$434M to end the GEA*
- \$627M increase in Foundation Aid**
- \$340M increase in Expense-Driven Aids

Our major goals have always focused on the **adequacy, equity, predictability and sustainability of State Education Aid**. We are appreciative of the substantial increase in Foundation Aid, which brings us closer a bit closer to adequacy. Equity, predictability and sustainability, however, are still elusive.

We had hoped that the increase in Foundation Aid would have been closer to \$900M, which would have directed assistance to more of the poorer and higher-and average need school districts in across the state. With that being said, the \$627M targeted to Foundation Aid is noteworthy. It goes a part of the way to addressing our adequacy concerns and took place thanks to the efforts of our state legislators, who clearly heard our voices and acted upon our needs.

In addition, the long-overdue end of the Gap Elimination Adjustment not only helps many of our districts, but also, importantly, removes a significant impediment that will now allow us to focus our efforts squarely on the even more overdue resolution of the inequitable distribution of Foundation Aid in New York State.

I'll be in touch as more information becomes available...

Charlie Borgognoni

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