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# SSFC

**THE STATEWIDE SCHOOL FINANCE CONSORTIUM**

*Dedicated to Secure Equitable Funding for New York State Public Schools*

## *State Aid & New York State Public School Districts*

*In education, there is a golden triangle of quantity, quality and equity. You can't just ignore one while strengthening the others.*  
*Sitaram Yechury*

*Dr. Rick Timbs*

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## Foundation Aid- A Rationale: The School District Expenditure Considerations:

Poverty is not poverty-

- local governmental service levels and other supports, historical issues, cost of living issues, concentration of poverty.

Cost escalations faced by all districts-

- health insurance, contractual obligations, and mandates

Less students does not translate into automatic savings-

- student demographics, student learning needs,
  - Class sizes
  - Grade level sizes
  - “Neighborhood” schools/Attendance Zones
  - increased educational expectations-
  - state assessments, remedial courses, advanced courses

The increased mission of the school district-

- Before school Programs
- After School Programs
- Summer Programs
- Extracurricular activities
- Cocurricular activities
- Breakfast Programs
- Health care
- Social Services

## **Foundation Aid Recommendations:**

**For Foundation aid to work a number of elements must be in place:**

- 1. Increased weighting of all of the following Foundation Aid formula factors:  
CWR , FRPL, SAIPE, ELL**
- 2. There needs to include a more inclusive use of Direct Certification to other programs (HEAP)**
- 3. Eliminate the Income Wealth Index floor (IWI floor = zero)**
- 4. Also, some reasonable accommodation must be made for district that have entered programs that grant all children free lunch/breakfast**
- 5. There must be an increase in the Adjusted Foundation Aid Amount (AFA) to reflect more realistic cost of educating a single child (Adequacy)**
- 6. Rationally determine the level of support for save harmless districts based on wealth and demographics of students (Equity)**
- 7. Begin a legitimate Phase-in of an updated and repaired Foundation Aid Formula immediately**
- 8. Caps within the formula would sparingly be used a part of a legitimate phase-in plan**

## Legislative Asks:

### *Equity, Adequacy, Predictability, Sustainability*



Preamble: School Districts consider the 2007-08 Foundation Aid formula, its general concepts, construct and promulgation sacrosanct.

School districts believe that the Foundation Aid formula must be quickly improved in the following areas:

- 1) The further development of more equitable distribution of funds among school districts based on accurate representations of fiscal capacity and poverty as well as the demographics of the student population relative to our educational mission.
- 2) The adequacy of funds within the formula based on the actual costs of education for each school district that allows it to achieve their educational mission, under the obligations contained in state law and regulation.
- 3) The development of a distinct phase-in plan over the next few years for an improved Foundation Aid formula to accomplish equity and adequacy so that state aid is significantly more predictable for each school district.
- 4) The development of a sound financial plan to sustain state aid to school districts by the state.