Legislators are still at it

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
Follow & Share our Messages