

**SFY 2012-2013 Subcommittee on Education  
Report to the General Conference Committee**

**To:** Senate Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Co-Chair  
Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Co-Chair  
General Conference Committee

**From:** Senator John J. Flanagan, Co-Chair  
Member of Assembly, Catherine T. Nolan, Co-Chair  
Joint Conference Subcommittee on Education

**Subject:** Detailed Report of the Joint Conference Subcommittee on Education

**Date:** March 26, 2012

---

Senator John J. Flanagan, Co-Chair  
Senator Andrew J. Lanza  
Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer  
Senator James L. Seward  
Senator Stephen M. Saland\*  
Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.  
Senator Shirley Huntley\*

Assemblymember Catherine T. Nolan, Co-Chair  
Assemblymember Vivian E. Cook  
Assemblymember N. Nick Perry  
Assemblymember Kevin A. Cahill  
Assemblymember Philip Ramos\*  
Assemblymember Joel M. Miller  
Assemblymember Gary D. Finch\*

The Joint Conference Subcommittee on Education is pleased to present this report for the recommendations of the 2012-13 budget, including the Subcommittee's table target of \$100 million.

### **1. State Operations**

The Legislature accepts the Executive proposal with modest modifications to the appropriation that supports funding for the 3020A hearing process.

### **2. General Support for Public Schools (GSPS) Programs**

Currently, in the 2011-12 School Year, school districts receive more than \$19.26 Billion in formula aids. After several years of a severe economic downturn, the State is able to provide an increase in education support to school districts throughout the State.

- Overall, Education funding for General Support for Public Schools increases by \$805 million.
- This additional funding will provide for a school aid increase of approximately \$751 million in increased aid for the 2012-13 School Year over the 2011-12 School Year.
- The Legislature accepts the Executive proposal to provide a \$288.1 million restoration of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).
- This additional funding will provide a renewed support for the Foundation formula as well as an increased restoration of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).

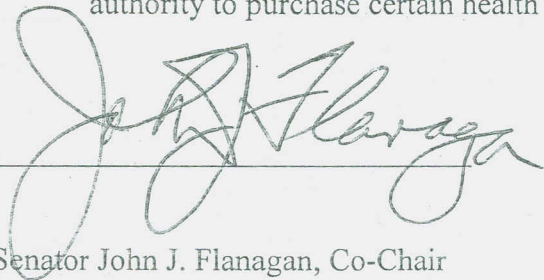
- The increased funding also provides for a full reimbursement of expense based aids, using revised and updated data.
- The enacted budget also provides increased support for:
  - Teacher Centers;
  - Libraries;
  - Comprehensive Attendance Program for Nonpublic schools;
  - Adult Literacy Education; and
  - CWE
- The Enacted Budget also provides for \$125 million in Competitive Grants in SFY 2013-14.

### 3. Article VII Proposals

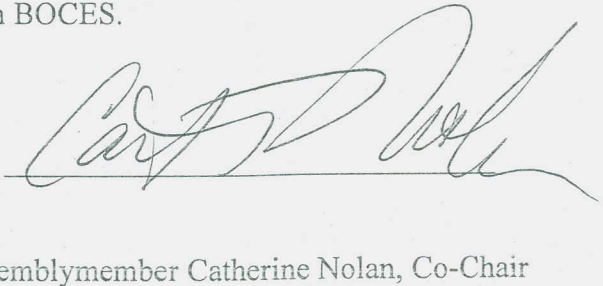
The Subcommittee agrees on the following actions in relation to Article VII Proposals:

- The Legislature accepts the Executive proposal to continue the Contract for Excellence (C4E) program.
- The Legislature amends the Executive proposal to provide that no school district is eligible to receive an increase in education funding for SY 2012-13 unless the district has submitted documentation, approved by the Commissioner by January 17, 2013, that demonstrates full implementation of new standards and procedures for conducting annual professional performance reviews (APPR) of teachers and principals.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposals relating to the Preschool Special Education program. The cost shift on to school districts is rejected.
- The Legislature accepts the Executive proposal to extend the time period for awarding Management Efficiency Grants by 120 days. The Legislature also accepts the Executive proposal to allow bonus points to be awarded to school districts that submit documentation, approved by the Commissioner by September 1, 2012, of full compliance with APPR.
- The Legislature provides for changes to the Tenured Teacher Disciplinary Hearings (3020A process) to create efficiencies and ensure compliance with statutory timelines. The Legislature rejects the Executive cost shift.
- The Legislature accepts the Executive proposal to regain Building Aid eligibility in cases where districts missed the final cost report filing deadline by providing for the payment through the prior year claims process and receive traditional state aid reimbursement starting in 2013-14.
- The Legislature provides a waiver provision which authorizes Building Aid payments only after a final cost report is submitted.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposal to purchase school buses and equipment from a centralized state contract in order to become eligible for state reimbursement after June 30, 2012.
- The Legislature rejects the Executive proposal to require approval by the Commissioner for school bus equipment purchases.
- The Legislature accepts the Executive proposal to extend authorization for school districts to award contracts for the transportation of pupils pursuant to a request for proposal process for five years.
- The Legislature accepts the Executive proposal to extend a provision that mitigates the impact of federal military base closings to state aid for a period of five years.

- The Legislature continues a set aside within Employment Preparation Education (EPE) for students with high school diplomas that do not have basic skills.
- The Legislature provides authorization for school districts to use excess Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR) funds to maintain educational programming in the 2012-13 school year.
- The Legislature modifies the Executive proposal to continue the current teacher certification process for community-based organizations providing Universal Prekindergarten (UPK).
- The Legislature provides clarification of the UPK maintenance of effort provision as well as providing for the correction of certain data errors.
- The Legislature provides to continue the UPK program through SY 2013-14.
- The Legislature provides clarification to ensure that students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch are enrolled and receive free or reduced price meals without further application in the program.
- The Legislature accepts the 1-year extender for Teachers for Tomorrow.
- The Legislature accepts the 1-year extender for special education class size provisions.
- The Legislature accepts the 1-year extender relating to conditional appointments.
- The Legislature accepts the 1-year extender for No Child Left Behind provisions relating to supplemental educational services, safe public schools, and homeless children.
- The Legislature accepts the 1-year extender for school bus driver training grants.
- The Legislature accepts the 1-year extender for the Rochester City School District's authority to purchase certain health services from BOCES.



Senator John J. Flanagan, Co-Chair



Assemblymember Catherine Nolan, Co-Chair