

**SFY 2005-2006 Subcommittee on Education  
Report to the General Conference Committee**

**To:** Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno, Co-Chair  
Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Co-Chair  
General Conference Committee

**From:** Senator Stephen M. Saland, Co-Chair  
Member of Assembly, Steven Sanders  
Joint Conference Subcommittee on Education

**Subject:** Detailed Report of the Conference Committee on Education

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Senator Stephen M. Saland, Co-Chair	Assemblymember Steven Sanders, Co-Chair
Senator Frank Padavan	Assemblymember Sandra Galef
Senator James L. Seward	Assemblymember Paul D. Tonko
Senator John J. Flanagan	Assemblymember William L. Parment
Senator Suzi Oppenheimer	Assemblymember James D. Conte

On March 24, 2005, after six meetings, the Education Subcommittee completed its work and presented a report to the General Conference Committee. We are pleased to present this report which provides detail on all the budget changes agreed to by the subcommittee.

**1. School Aid**

For the 2005-06 School Year provide for an increase of school aid of approximately \$840 million over school year 2004-05. This provides for restoration to present law of various expense based aids including BOCES and Public and Private Excess Cost Aid. Also included are the Teacher Programs. In addition, the Legislature provides for the restorations of various grant programs.

**2. Capital Plan**

The Subcommittee Conferees have agreed to a proposal which would address the inequities in Building Aid reimbursement practices for New York City. In addition, we are exploring other capital reimbursement issues in order to address other funding concerns.

**3. Other GSPS Programs**

Urban-Suburban Transfer: Funded at its present law level of \$1.1 million.

Magnet Schools: Funded at its present law level of \$136.1 million.

Categorical Reading: Funded at its present law level of \$63.9 million.

Improving Pupil Performance: Funded at its present law level or \$66.3 million.

School Bus Driver Training: Funded at its present law level of \$400,000.

Fort Drum: Funded at its present law level of \$2.6 million.

Learning Technology Grants: Funded at its present law level of \$3.2 million.

Transportation of Homeless Students: Funded at its present law level of \$6.4 million.

Bilingual Education: Funded at its present law level of \$11.2 million.

Roosevelt Academic Improvement Grants: Funded at its present law level of \$6 million.

#### 4. Libraries

The members of the Joint Subcommittee on Education agree to an addition \$4.478 million in aid to public libraries, restoring funding to the FY 2003-04 funding levels.

Additional proposals have been put forth by each house to provide additional funding to libraries are still being discussed.

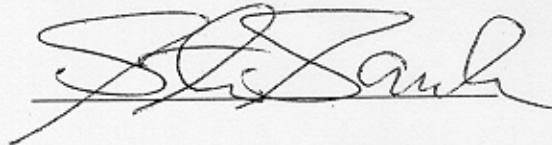
#### 5. Article VII

In addition Subcommittee members have also agreed to Article VII provisions which have been previously announced. A detailed list is attached.

The Subcommittee members are pleased to report that there is approximately \$40 million remaining from our table target which will be returned to the General Conference Committee.



Senator Stephen M. Saland, Co-Chair



Assemblyman Steven Sanders, Co-Chair

## ATTACHMENT - ARTICLE VII PROPOSALS

The members of the Joint Conference Subcommittee on Education agree to accept the following:

- A Medicaid offset technical correction.
- The calculation of the Attendance Improvement and Dropout Prevention set aside, and the set-aside for community based organizations.
- Extending the sunset for Employment Preparation Education for people with high school diplomas for one year.
- Extending the accelerated STAR payment schedule for the 2005-06 school year.
- Extending the Teachers of Tomorrow Grants.
- Continuing the set aside for New York City Teacher Centers for the 2005-06 school year.
- Removing obsolete language relating to small school districts to be consolidated.
- An extension of the sunset provision for special education class size for an additional year.
- Prioritized payments for July and August programs for students with disabilities.
- Making an application of forgiveness for late Final Cost Report filings retroactive to the start of school year.
- The Federal Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act (VATEA) Maintenance of Effort for BOCES and Special Services Aid.
- A transportation reporting technical amendment.
- Miscellaneous Extenders.
- Chapter One Advance.
- Continuing the Magnet School Program.
- Continuing the Categorical Reading Program.
- Continuing the Improving Pupil Performance Program.
- Continuing the School Bus Driver Program.
- Continuing the Fort Drum Grant Program.

- Continuing the Learning Technology Grant Program.
- Continuing the Homeless Children and Youth Transportation Program.
- Continuing the Bilingual Education Grant Program.
- Continuing the Teacher Support Grant Program.
- Continuing the Roosevelt Academic Improvement Grant Program.
- Continuing the Teacher Centers Program.
- Continuing the Teacher Mentor Internship Program.
- Continuing the Urban-Suburban Transfer Program.

Additionally, the members of the Subcommittee agree to reject the following:

- Limiting Full-Day Kindergarten Conversion Aid to one year per district.
- Reinstating a moratorium on the creation or expansion of preschool programs that serve children with disabilities.
- Transferring the Deaf Infant Program from the New York State Education Department to the Department of Health.
- Requiring a second independent evaluation for students with disabilities, in cases where the child is maintaining his/her enrollment with his/her Early Intervention Provider.
- Allowing school districts to seek private insurance information from parents of disabled preschool and school age students.
- Placing a cap on school district increases in total spending to the lesser of four percent or 120 percent of the increase in the CPI unless there is a two-thirds majority vote to exceed the cap.
- Transferring the Office of Vocational & Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) to the Department of Labor.
- Changing the existing 3020-A disciplinary process for teachers.
- The creation of Academic Achievement Awards.
- Creating an alternative certification for teachers and administrators and rejects the Executive's proposal requiring 175 hours of professional development for administrators.
- Creating of the Office of Educational Accountability and Efficiency (OEAE).

- Allowing districts to replace tenure for principals and administrators with renewable three to five year contracts.
- Allowing school districts to seek private insurance information from parents of students with disabilities.
- Establishing a new public benefit corporation known as the New York Institute for Cultural Education (NYICE).
- Creating school district internal auditing functions. Rejected without prejudice.
- Requiring school districts to change auditors every three years. Rejected without prejudice.
- Creating school district Audit Committees. Rejected without prejudice.
- Requiring school board members to participate in training and continuing education. Rejected without prejudice.
- Requiring a new annual report on student performance from the State Board of Regents.
- Making the Albany Mayor an ex-officio member of the Albany School Board.
- Altering school district reporting.
- Shifting the cost of teacher tenure hearings from the State to school districts.