

2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

EDUCATION JUSTICE

We believe that a just education system will consider children's needs from cradle to career. We fight for: fully funded & equitable education; expanded parental & community engagement & decision-making power; schools that respect cultural differences & are reflective of the communities they serve.

Due to the Governor's refusal to support legislation to tax the wealthy, our educational institutions are facing fiscal dilemmas, just as they are trying to figure out what school re-openings will look like due to the pandemic.



WE SUPPORT

Education Funding

To ensure we fund the cost of educating & caring for the whole child, we request a \$5.8 billion education funding increase in the budget, which includes:

- **\$4 billion to fully fund Foundation Aid owed to school districts**
- \$1.1 billion to repay the "pandemic adjustment cut"
- **\$400 million to reimburse expense based aids (including pandemic-related transportation costs)**
- \$225 million for COVID-19 expenses
- **Sufficient funding to fully fund universal pre-kindergarten for an additional \$770 million, plus \$5 million for Technical Assistance Centers**
- Restoration of the \$1.5 million enhancement in Fiscal Year 2020 to Adult Literacy Education (ALE) and invest an additional \$17.2 million to ALE for a total of \$25 million in FY 2021.

Solutions Not Suspensions

All children deserve safe schools where they have supportive & respectful relationships with teachers & staff.

The Solutions not Suspensions Act will:

- **Encourage the use of positive & age-appropriate disciplinary strategies**
- Eliminate the use of out-of-school suspensions for minor infractions
- **Significantly limit suspensions for students in grades K-3**
- Ensure that students receive instruction when removed from school
- **Limit unnecessary contact between law enforcement & students [A5197]**
- Stop the flow of students into the school-to-prison pipeline

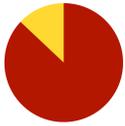
Stemming from the work on Solutions Not Suspensions, some localities are focused on ending school districts' relationship with police departments, by eliminating school resource officers or safety officers and instead redirecting funding toward support personnel like social workers, school counselors and psychologists.

**CITIZEN
ACTION!**
OF NEW YORK

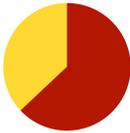
WE SUPPORT

Education Funding

In 2020, Cuomo cut **\$1.1 BILLION** from high need, low income schools:



87% of total cuts were to **HIGH NEED DISTRICTS**



63% of students in high need districts are **BLACK & LATINX**



75% of students in high need districts are **ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED**

Solutions Not Suspensions

91,495 New York State children were suspended in the 2015 - 2016 school year

That's more than **500 suspensions / day**

Suspensions don't help students OR teachers.

We need real solutions to help students & break the school-to-prison pipeline.



Protect Students, Not Billionaires

New York communities are hurting from decades of cuts to education, housing, health care, & other services. Now Cuomo has cut an additional 20% in funding during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We MUST invest in public education to ensure that all students across New York - especially Black, Latinx, immigrant & low income children - receive a high quality education.

The Invest in Our New York Act is a package of six state bills that raises \$50 billion to ensure that we rebuild our economy by taxing the wealthiest New Yorkers. The full bill package & more information can be found at www.investinourny.org.

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