

AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA - 2016 NYS BUDGET SCORECARD

EDUCATION TAX CREDIT



Although this was a major legislative priority for Agudath Israel and other nonpublic school groups, when the session ended, unfortunately, as in preceding years, the Education Tax Credit was not enacted. This credit would have provided an incentive for charitable giving to yeshivos and other nonpublic schools, as well as assisted needy students with tuition costs. We will continue our advocacy efforts on this issue.

RETIRE CAP DEBT



\$60 million in additional CAP funds awarded. This was a significant victory for Agudath Israel, yeshivos and other nonpublic school groups. Receiving \$60 of our \$80 million ask will nearly fully retire the debt and address the 2-year lag issue - i.e. that nonpublic schools are currently reimbursed 2 years after they incur CAP expenses. Details to follow, when available.

FULLY COVER CAP IN 2016 USING ORIGINAL FORMULA



\$69.8 million for CAP reimbursement, an increase of \$22.4 million.

This was another issue that Agudath Israel had advocated for. This appropriation eliminates the efficiency filter and restores the original formula, thereby ensuring that we will not have to return to the negotiating table to request owed reimbursements going forward.

2015 ASK TO RETIRE CAP DEBT



\$125 million was re-appropriated for disbursement in the 2016-17 state fiscal year for prior-year CAP claims.

This is in line with Agudath Israel's and other nonpublic school groups' win last year. Yeshivos have already received the first installment of this sum. This second installment, now re-appropriated, will be disbursed in two payments, in September 2016 and March 2017.

INCREASE SAFETY EQUIPMENT FUNDING LEVELS



\$10.5 million in additional funds for Safety Equipment, for a total of \$15 million, or approximately \$30 per child.

This more than triples the current \$4.5 million allocation. The additional \$10.5 million will be available after April 1, 2017. While Agudath Israel had asked for an even higher level of funding in light of the current climate, we count this development as a win - for Agudath Israel, for nonpublic schools, and most importantly, for our children. While there is no budgetary commitment at this time, our expectation is that lawmakers will maintain this figure going forward.

ALLOW ENHANCED FLEXIBILITY FOR USE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT FUNDS



Agudath Israel had asked for, and was granted, greater flexibility in the use of all Safety Equipment Funds. It appears that this flexibility may extend to the hiring of security personnel, building on a similar reimbursement win in NYC. Details to follow, as available.

RE-ESTABLISH A DEDICATED OFFICE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS AT THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



\$2 million of a dedicated funding to support the reestablishment of an Office of Nonpublic Schools in the State Education Department.

Agudath Israel had actually asked for \$1 million to support this Office. The re-establishment of dedicated, proactive, representation on behalf of nonpublic schools in the SED before policies are enacted, is a major achievement. We are hopeful that nonpublic schools will reap dividends from the re-establishment of this Office for years to come.

INCREASE REIMBURSEMENT FOR IMMUNIZATION MANDATE



We had requested an increase of \$7.7 million under mandated services program for immunization reimbursement. Currently, this reimbursement is capped at 60 cents per child, which we believe does not begin to address the actual costs incurred. This was an innovatively

framed request, which utilized surveys and statistical analyses to demonstrate a real-time immunization reimbursement shortfall. While this request was not granted as a budget item, we will continue our advocacy efforts on this issue.

SUMMARY OF NYS FUNDING TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INCREASES TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS (IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

• Retire CAP Debt	\$60 million
• Fully Cover CAP in 2016 Using Original Formula	\$22.4 million
• 2015 Ask to Retire CAP Debt (Re-appropriated in 2016)	\$125 million
• Increase Safety Equipment Funding Levels	\$10.5 million
• Re-establish a Dedicated Office for Nonpublic Schools at the SED	\$2 million
• Mandated Services Increase	\$1.9 million
2016 Budget Total Increases:	\$221.8 million

OTHER NYS PROGRAMS TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS, WHICH HAVE BEEN RE-APPROPRIATED:

• MSA Funding	\$104.2 million
• CAP Funding	\$47.4 million
• Academic Intervention Services	\$922,000
• Learning Technology Grants	\$3.29 million
2016 Budget Total:	\$155.8 million
• Textbook Aid	\$58.25 per pupil
• Software Aid	\$14.98 per pupil
• Hardware Aid	\$12 per pupil (avg.)
• Library Materials	\$6.25 per pupil
2016 Budget Total:	\$91.48 per pupil

ABOVE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE:

Bus Transportation Services • TAP • Special Education Services