



LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS...

May 2010

Education Funding a Contentious Issue in State Budget

The State Legislature's budget proposals remain \$3 billion short of Governor Paterson's budget proposals – neither of which are expected to be sufficient to close the current state budget deficit, which is in excess of \$9.2 billion.

The State Constitution requires the Legislature to deliver a balanced budget by April 1. But the Legislature and the Governor have yet to agree on the State's 2010-11 spending plan. Significant differences concerning how education will be funded remain at the heart of this year's budget negotiations.

For more information go to:

<http://www.ny.gov/governor/press/033110BudgetStmnt.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/23/nyregion/23budget.html?scp=1&sq=new%20york%20education%20budget&st=cse>

Congressman Tonko Gathers Local Feedback on President Obama's Proposals for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is in the works and President Obama has some very specific goals for this federal funding. NY Congressman Paul Tonko, a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, held several public meetings to gather feedback from parents, teachers and school administrators on how these funds should be appropriated.

The President's proposal is outlined in "A Blueprint for Reform," issued by the U.S. Department of Education. The program builds on priorities already emphasized in the Administration's stimulus package for education and Race to the Top competition.

Those priorities are:

1. College- and career-ready students.
2. Great teachers and leaders in every school.
3. Equity and opportunity for all students.
4. Raise the bar and reward excellence.

5. Promote innovation and continuous improvement.

The plan strives to address concerns that the current version of ESEA, known as “No Child Left Behind,” is inflexible and fails to achieve academic excellence. National PTA is concerned that the new Blueprint proposal doesn’t adequately address family engagement and eliminates funding dedicated to this purpose.

The House Education and Labor Committee will be meeting soon to consider the reauthorization of ESEA. In addition to Tonko, the other New York members of the Committee are Yvette Clarke, Carolyn McCarthy and Tim Bishop.

For more information, go to:

http://www.edweek.org/login.html?source=http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/02/10/21mtr_stimesea.h29.html&destination=http://www.edweek.org/ew/article/s/2010/02/10/21mtr_stim-esea.h29.html&levelId=2100
[http://edlabor.house.gov/hearings/2010/03/the-obama-administrations-
elem.shtml](http://edlabor.house.gov/hearings/2010/03/the-obama-administrations-elem.shtml)

New York to Submit Revised Race to the Top Application for Federal Education Funds

The Governor and the Legislature are considering state legislation to improve New York’s Race to the Top (RTTT) application in Phase 2 of the competition. Among the issues being deliberated are utilization of student test data for teacher evaluations and lifting the charter school cap.

Delaware and Tennessee won grants in the first phase of the Race to the Top competition. New York was one of 16 finalists, but was not selected for funding.

The second round of applications is due June 1 to compete for \$3.4 billion in federal funding for education.

For more information, go to:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html>
http://www.oms.nysed.gov/press/March29_rttt_statement.html

To watch NY’s video interview:

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state_edwatch/2010/04/must_see_tv_race_to_top_presentations_debut.html