



# **Students Can't Wait**

## **Equity Priorities for New Yorkers in 2023 Briefing**

# **Welcome!**



**The Education Trust—New York**

# Who We Are



**The Education Trust—New York**

**EdTrustNY.org**

**New York**   
**Equity Coalition**

**EquityInEdNY.org**







Dr. Dia Bryant  
Executive Director, Ed Trust–NY



Samuel L. Radford III  
Director, Community Action Organization Better  
Schools, Better Neighborhoods Initiative,  
Co-Chair of We The Parents



Jeff Smink  
Deputy Director, Ed Trust–NY



Kalima Johnson  
Associate Director of Advocacy & Partnerships, Ed Trust–NY



Elizabeth Angeles  
Vice President of Advocacy, United Way of NYC



# The State of Education

- The pandemic **exacerbated** existing inequities
- Students of color and from low-income backgrounds **most impacted**
- Now is the opportunity for **urgency** and a renewed focus on equity and innovation





AUGUST 2022

New York  
Equity Coalition

## WHAT'S BEHIND THE STATE'S IMPROVED GRADUATION RATES?

REGENTS EXAM EXEMPTIONS AND REGULATORY CHANGES MAY BE THE CAUSE OF INFLATED GRADUATION RATES

Since 2016, New York's **graduation rate has risen** 9.4 percentage points, with double-digit increases in Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse. The class of 2021 continued this upward trend, with an 86.1% graduation rate in 2021, a 1.3% increase over the 2016 cohort. While this is great news on the surface, recent changes to state graduation requirements make it difficult to know if graduation rate improvements accurately reflect how well schools are preparing students — especially those who have been historically underserved by the education system — for future success.

For the past three years, the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted regular administration of high school Regents exams. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) began cancelling Regents exams in June of 2020. Since then, the state has made additional regulatory changes that make it easier for students to graduate from high school, including cancellation of additional Regents exams and adoption of a growing number of exemptions designed to lessen the burden of pandemic interruptions on students.

Regulatory changes during the pandemic continue a pattern that began several years ago. Beginning in 2015, the state has made changes

to graduation requirements to provide more pathways and flexibility for students to earn a diploma. While the need for additional flexibility, particularly during the pandemic, is understood, long-term preparation for students' future success is not always a priority. Additional regulatory changes during the pandemic have further complicated the process.



The Education Trust—New York

## REPRESENTATION MATTERS

A look at the state of teacher diversity in New York

November 2022

## THE TIME FOR URGENCY

New York Schools and the American

New York  
Equity Coalition

January 2023

New York  
Equity Coalition

November 2022

## PANDEMIC PROFICIENCY

Analysis of 2022 assessment data underscores the need to urgently address the impact of interrupted instruction

Recently released assessment results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and the New York State Department of Education confirm what many suspected about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on student learning.

intended — to drive resources to the students and schools who suffered the greatest impact.

Schools have been through major changes since 2019, the last year that New York State released comparable statewide assessment data. Even with declining enrollment and teacher shortages, comparing 2018-2019 assessment results to 2021-2022 provides the public with an important snapshot of the impact of the pandemic on student literacy and numeracy skills. While the pandemic has impacted students in multiple ways, including many that are difficult to track, standardized test scores remain one of the most effective ways to measure student proficiency comparatively at scale.

omic, communities of low-income residents were disproportionately impacted. We also know that students of color and those who were hit harder by illness and the pandemic.

center of the pandemic hit all sectors — business, education, and more. New York will feel the impact for decades to come — in our communities, and our workforce. We must act with urgency to address the impact of the pandemic on student data as was always

Since the 2018-19 school year New York State public schools have seen a significant decrease in the number of students enrolled in public schools. Accordingly, the number of students who took the state tests also decreased. However, the percent of students tested has remained relatively consistent.

Student Participation			SY21-22		
	Number enrolled	Pct tested	Number tested	Number enrolled	Pct tested
	1,188,798	83%	927,317	1,114,083	83%
\$	1,188,798	80%	929,886	1,114,083	83%

New York Equity Coalition | 1

## A CRITICAL MOMENT:

Governor Hochul's State of the State presents ideas and opportunities to advance educational equity

Governor Hochul's 2023 State of the State includes several critical investments that will help to support New York's children and families beginning at birth through college and into the workforce.

But there is still more work to be done to ensure all New Yorkers have access to the educational experiences that will allow them to ultimately earn a family-sustaining wage and engage in their communities.

This is a critical time for New York, as the state continues to rebuild its economy amid an ongoing and persistent pandemic while also bracing for a looming recession.

Now more than ever, it is imperative that state leaders prioritize equity and support families and communities who have historically been underserved by our education systems.

Many of the proposals in Hochul's State of the State aim to do just that.

As this budget season and legislative session progresses, we urge lawmakers to make a commitment to New York families by protecting the provisions that aim to interrupt cycles of poverty and supporting additional legislation that fosters more equity for all of our residents.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE STATE OF THE STATE

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

##### Increase Eligibility for Child Care Assistance

Governor Hochul's proposal will increase eligibility for child care assistance to the maximum allowed by federal law — ensuring families earning up to 85 percent of New York's median income receive assistance.



A CRITICAL MOMENT | The Education Trust—New York



The Education Trust—New York

# The State of Education

- Districts still have an **unprecedented** infusion of federal and state funds to spend
- With student outcome data, state and district leaders can **target resources** to schools and students most in need and adjust strategies as needed





# Logistics and Q&A

- At the end of our presentations, we'll have time for Q&A
- If you have a question, please use the Q&A function at the bottom of your screen to submit a question
- Please feel free to use the chat function to introduce yourselves and chat



Equity Priorities



Jeff Smink  
Deputy Director  
Ed Trust–NY

# Use of Pandemic Relief Funding

## '21-'22 New York State Assessment Results





# Use of Pandemic Relief Funding



New York received **\$9 billion** in ARPA funds, with at least 20% targeted to address student learning loss



Districts have **until 2024** to spend funds

As of Sept., districts across the state had **spent less than 10%** of their ARPA funds **and less than 20%** of all ESSER funding



This places New York State **49th in spending nationally**



# Use of Pandemic Relief Funding

## Our Recommendations

- Districts revise their ARPA funding strategies based on prior spending, student assessment data, and teacher feedback
- Districts target spending based on student and school needs, with focus on evidence-based resources in early literacy, math instruction, high impact tutoring, and mental health
- NYSED provide more guidance and technical help to districts on how to effectively spend these funds and evaluate the impact of spending on student outcomes





# State of Education: Literacy



**Less than half of all** tested students in grade 3-8 were proficient in ELA



**Only 36%** of Black and Latinx students were proficient



There was a **6% decline** in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA proficiency, the most important indicator of student success, since 2019



# State of Education: Literacy

## Our Recommendations

- Utilize new state and federal funding to invest in evidence-based early literacy instruction aligned with the science of reading in grades K-3
- Provide high-impact tutoring, with targeted support to student subgroups below proficiency
- Utilize community partners to provide additional literacy support afterschool and during the summer





# State of Education: Math



**Less than half of all** tested students in grade 3-8 were proficient math



Math proficiency **declined significantly by 9%** between the '18-19 and '21-22 school years



**Only 24% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders** were proficient. 8<sup>th</sup> grade math represents a key transition point to future advanced STEM courses



# State of Education: Math

## Our Recommendations

- Utilize new state and federal funding to invest in high-quality instructional materials, including evidence-based curricula and job-embedded professional learning opportunities
- Provide high-impact tutoring, with targeted support to student subgroups below proficiency







Elizabeth Angeles  
Vice President of Advocacy  
United Way of New York City  
New York Equity Coalition

# New York State Graduation Measures

## Teacher Diversity



# State of Education: Graduation Measures



While New York's graduation rate **has risen over 9%** since 2016...



The **vast majority (71%)** of 2021 graduates relied on at least one Regents exam exemption



Graduation rates for English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and students from low-income backgrounds have increased, with a **disproportionate reliance on exam exemptions**



# State of Education: Graduation Measures

## Our Recommendations

- Districts should utilize new federal and state funding to help students meet graduation requirements by identifying students at risk of not graduating and providing them with extra support, tutoring, and post-secondary planning
- Administer Regents exams to all eligible students and eliminate provisions that have lowered passing rates to 50%
- Increase the use of dual enrollment programs and improve access to advanced coursework across the state, particularly to students of color and from low-income backgrounds
- Maintain rigorous graduation requirements with an objective measure of student performance





# Teacher Diversity



**77% of teachers across the state were White**, even though the majority of NY students are of color



While 29% of NY students are Latinx, **only 8%** of teachers are



More than 1 in 5 NY students attend schools **without any** teachers of color on staff

Students of color are **far more likely** to attend schools with more than 5 new teachers compared to their White peers, White students also had overwhelmingly **more access to the most experienced teachers than students of color.**



# Teacher Diversity

## Our Recommendations

- Strengthen the teacher preparation pipeline for future teachers and school leaders of color, including expansion of the state Teacher Opportunity Corps grant program, “Grow Your Own” initiatives; career pathways and innovative alternative certification pilots; and residency programs and other field work
- Improve recruitment and hiring at the state and school district level by collecting and using data to examine school district practices and addressing implicit bias in the hiring process
- Focus greater attention on retention, support, and career advancement for teachers of color by developing cohorts of educators of color and investing in mentorship and career ladders for current and aspiring teacher, school, and district leaders





Samuel L. Radford III  
Director, Community Action  
Organization Better Schools,  
Better Neighborhoods Initiative,  
Co-Chair of We The Parents  
New York Equity Coalition

# Advanced Coursework

## K-12 Enrollment Trends





# Course Access



Students who are from low-income backgrounds and American Indian, Black, and Latinx students **are under-represented in advanced coursework**



They are also more likely than their White peers to attend schools where advanced courses are **not offered**



And even in schools that offer advanced coursework, **students who are from low-income backgrounds and Black and Latinx students are under-enrolled**



# Course Access

## Our Recommendations

- Prioritize dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate programs in high-need school districts
- Require districts to provide every family with information about course offerings, enrollment criteria and supports in multiple languages
- Enable automatic enrollment in the next available advanced course for students that demonstrate readiness using multiple measures, with the option for families to opt out
- Incentivize collaboration between local school districts and institutions of higher education



# State of Education: Enrollment



Traditional public school enrollment **declined overall by 8%** between the '17-18 and '21-22 school years statewide



Enrollment in public **charter schools** increased by 24% while **homeschool** enrollment increased by 113%



The Rochester City School District and NYC DOE had the **most dramatic declines** of the state's largest city districts, at 15% and 13%





# State of Education: Enrollment

## Our Recommendations

- Create infrastructure for authentic parent engagement
- Collect and share bright spots
- Examine the root causes of enrollment changes
- Invest in a cradle-to-career state longitudinal data system





Kalima Johnson  
Associate Director of  
Advocacy & Partnerships  
Ed Trust–NY

# Key Takeaways from the 2023 State of the State address



# Key equity priorities from the State of the State

- Historic new investments in public education through Foundation Aid
- Establishing high-impact tutoring programs across the state to address unfinished learning
- Creation of new early college high school and P-TECH programs
- Increased support for youth mental health
- Creating a robust high school-college-workforce pipeline





# Looking forward to the 2023 legislative session

- Advanced Coursework
- Teacher Diversity
- FAFSA
- Early Literacy
- P-20 Data System



# Contact Us

Dr. Dia Bryant  
Executive Director, Ed Trust–NY  
[DBryant@EdTrustNY.org](mailto:DBryant@EdTrustNY.org)

Jeff Smink  
Deputy Director, Ed Trust–NY  
[JSmink@EdTrustNY.org](mailto:JSmink@EdTrustNY.org)

Kalima Johnson  
Associate Director of  
Advocacy and Partnerships, Ed Trust–NY  
[KJohnson@EdTrustNY.org](mailto:KJohnson@EdTrustNY.org)



@EdTrustNY



@EdTrust.NY

