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# **SSFC responds to Gov. Cuomo's 2012 Executive Budget Proposal**

**Statements from:**

Dr. Rick Timbs, Executive Director, SSFC, [rtimbs@statewideonline.org](mailto:rtimbs@statewideonline.org):

“We give credit to Governor Cuomo for keeping his promise to restore \$805 million (a 4 percent increase) to schools for 2012-13. He is putting the needs of New York’s students first, and no one can fault that. We also applaud the first steps the governor has proposed on mandate reform covering pension reform, teacher disciplinary hearing costs and the creation of a statewide system for school bus purchases.

“Unfortunately, we feel the governor could have gone much further than the positive initial steps he has proposed. Of greatest importance to the schools that comprises the Statewide School Finance Consortium, it appears that only new funds added to the budget this year will be distributed to school districts based on need – and that the remaining \$19.2 billion in state aid will continue to be distributed by the existing inequitable formula that has disadvantaged students in low wealth/high need communities for over 30 years.

“Further, we are deeply concerned about the Governor’s plan to direct nearly one-third of the \$805 in new funds to a competitive grants program. This is an unproven strategy. The \$250 million dedicated to this effort would have a more direct benefit on the needs of students if it remained in direct aid to school districts that desperately need the funds.”

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SSFC Executive Director Dr. Rick Timbs is available to speak with reporters and editors. Contact him at [rtimbs@statewideonline.org](mailto:rtimbs@statewideonline.org) or call Margaret McCormick at 315-373-8047 to arrange an interview.

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The Statewide School Finance Consortium (SSFC) is an organization of nearly 360 New York public school districts whose mission is to bring equity to the distribution of New York State educational aid. SSFC membership is largely comprised of school districts from average and low-wealth communities that receive a disproportionate share of state funding in comparison to high-wealth regions of New York. The reform of the state aid process will help ensure that all of New York's children receive the same educational opportunities regardless of the wealth or location of their community.