



EDUCATION

Cayuga County-area schools get more state aid in Cuomo's proposed budget



3 HOURS AGO • [ROBERT HARDING](#) | ROBERT.HARDING@LEE.NET

Gov. Andrew Cuomo's proposed 2016-17 budget includes increased funding for the nine school districts in the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES system.

The Auburn Enlarged City School District would receive the largest amount — \$27,739,762 in base aid, up from \$27,209,053 in the current school year. That doesn't include \$211,759 in community schools aid

the district would get in the budget.

Jordan-Elbridge would get the next-highest total, with \$9,425,044 in proposed aid for the 2016-17 school year — a 3.1 percent increase over the \$9,141,376 received for the current school year.

In his joint State of the State and executive budget presentation Wednesday, Cuomo said he wants to increase school aid by \$2.1 billion over the next two years and eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment, a formula that was used in past years to help close the state's budget deficit.

The Republican-led state Senate passed legislation this week to eliminate the GEA and erase the \$434 million in cuts remaining. Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan has said that getting rid of the GEA is his conference's top education priority this year.

"I've said this very clearly: We will not have a budget if the GEA is not eliminated," Flanagan, R-East Northport, said in a speech last week. "It's been there way too long."

While education advocates may be pleased with the elimination of the GEA, they aren't happy with the school aid levels included in Cuomo's budget proposal.

Dr. Rick Timbs, executive director of the Statewide School Finance Consortium, said the executive budget falls "far short" in providing support to districts around the state.

"The proposed \$991 million in 'new' state aid is over \$1.4 billion less than what the

Regents thoughtfully recommended to essentially maintain the status quo for our neediest children and school districts," Timbs said. "

PROPOSED 2016-17 BASE AID FOR CAYUGA COUNTY-AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Auburn: \$27,739,762, up from \$27,209,053 — 2.7 percent increase

Cato-Meridian: \$8,844,904, up from \$8,589,370 — 3 percent increase

Jordan-Elbridge: \$9,425,044, up from \$9,141,376 — 3.1 percent increase

Moravia: \$7,973,790, up from \$7,731,329 — 3.1 percent increase

Port Byron: \$8,594,122, up from \$8,323,857 — 3.2 percent increase

Skaneateles: \$3,537,718, up from \$3,382,532 — 4.6 percent increase

Southern Cayuga: \$5,813,163, up from \$5,620,001 — 3.4 percent increase

Union Springs: \$6,370,976, up from \$6,216,339 — 2.5 percent increase

Weedsport: \$5,437,862, up from \$5,227,113 — 3 percent increase