



**NEW YORK ASSOCIATION
FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION**

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NYAPT

Our future is riding with us!

2020-2021 School Transportation State Budget Priorities

NYAPT will advocate for the following priority areas in school transportation to the Governor, to the State Legislature, and to the Board of Regents for consideration in the 2020-2021 State Budget:

- **Continue to provide sufficient funding for school transportation services.**
 - NYAPT urges that the State continue the current 'expense-based' approach to school transportation aid. Under this funding approach, the State reimburses districts for the costs of transportation at levels between 6.5% and 90% of actual approved costs. In recent years, school districts have taken significant steps to become more efficient and the expense-based approach is working as it was intended. We would urge the continuation of 'expense-based' aid for school district transportation which recognizes the volatility of transportation costs to districts and local taxpayers.
- **Provide funding in support of transportation services for Universal Pre-Kindergarten students.**
 - NYAPT recommends that funds be appropriated in the State budget to support the delivery of transportation services for students enrolled in Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs. It has been several years since the State enacted Chapter 244 of the Laws of 2012 that allows school districts to provide "Pre-K" transportation. The cost of which is placed entirely on the local school district.
- **Allow expenditures for school bus monitors to be eligible for transportation aid reimbursement**
 - NYAPT recommends that the State allow Transportation aid reimbursement for costs related to employing school bus monitors (aides, matrons) on school buses. The need has increased in reference to managing student behaviors and bullying on school buses. As the State begins to advance early childhood education and expanding pre-kindergarten programs, there will be an increased need for an additional adult aboard the school bus. Informal surveys of bus drivers also show that student management is one of the primary reasons that people do not choose the school bus driving profession. State assistance in the cost of providing bus monitors will help ease the bus driver shortage issue.
- **Maintain funding for the School Bus Driver Training program to the level of \$400,000**
 - This funding provides annual training for the State's 50,000+ school bus drivers. NYAPT strongly recommends continuation of this funding.

NYAPT is dedicated to the support, development and representation of pupil transportation professionals.