



NEWS FROM NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN **PETER J. ABBATE, JR.**

49th Assembly District, Brooklyn

Spring 2015

Community Update

Every year, my district office participates in the Heartshare Neighborhood Heating Fund Program! This program helps families in need pay for their heating fuel during the harsh winter months. This year, my office secured over \$7,000 to help out more than 40 households over a two-month period.

I am also proud to be a part of the 8th Avenue Clean-Up Program, in coordination with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, local merchants, and local community groups. This program represents a first-of-its-kind investment into the Sunset Park Community that will make the 8th Avenue business district viable and will assist in attracting consumers from across the boroughs. I am looking into establishing similar programs for 13th Avenue and 18th Avenue.



Dear Neighbor,

As we make our way through another legislative session in Albany, I always like to keep the communities I represent informed of important legislation and initiatives. This year, we passed our 5th on-time budget in a row that places families ahead of special interests and allocates an unprecedented increase in funding for education.

The final 2015-16 New York State Budget puts families first by restoring school funding, making it possible for more students to achieve a college education, and helping struggling families. I am proud to say that the Assembly Majority fought hard to maintain and restore funding for programs that make a difference in New Yorkers lives all across the State. We also invested in New York City to make it an exceptional place to live, work and do business.

The information enclosed in this newsletter outlines my priorities in Albany.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Abbate, Jr.

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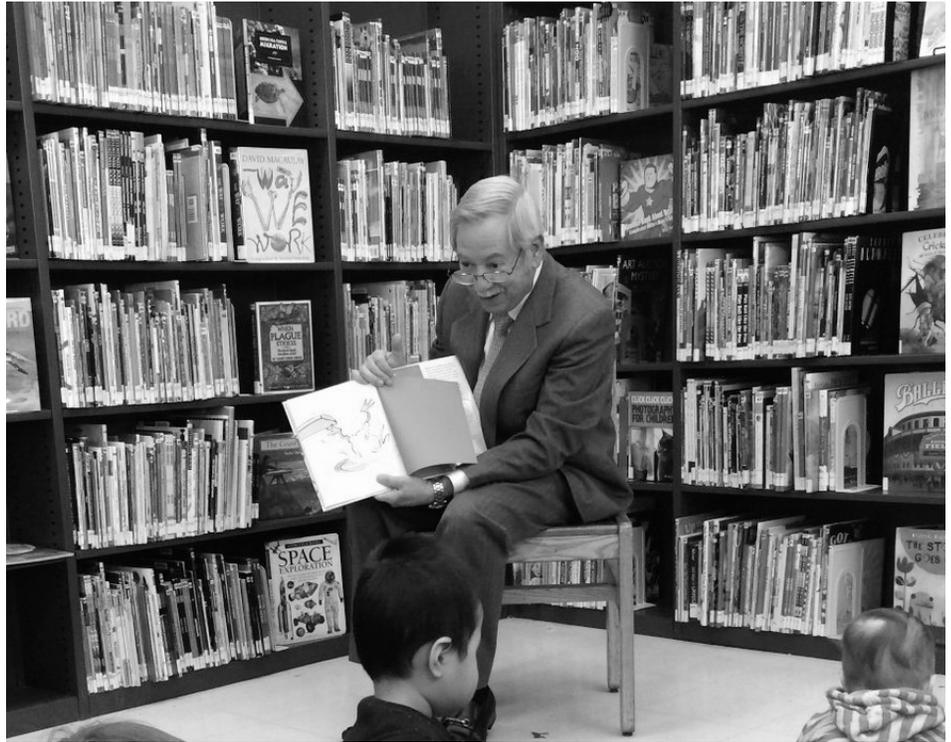
Major Investments in Education

When it comes to education, we must continue to place our focus on students. Ensuring all students have a quality education is my top priority and this year's 2015-16 budget is another example of the State Assembly's dedication to our children's futures. My colleagues and I stood up against the Governor to amend his proposal that would have hurt teachers and students. As a result of our negotiations, we were able to significantly blunt most of the damage while increasing state aid and ensuring teacher evaluations are done fairly and equitably.

This year's budget includes **\$1.6 billion** more than last year, for an extraordinary total of **\$23 billion** in funding. This funding will be distributed in such a way that the neediest schools will receive over 2/3rds of the funding, 25.7% going to average-need districts and 5.8% will go to low-need districts.

This budget includes:

- **\$19 million** increase in support grants for a total of **\$90 million**.
- School aid run increase of **\$1.3 billion**, including **\$428 million** more for foundation aid.
- **\$75 million** for struggling districts that will be distributed to schools that need it the most.



Supporting Parochial and Private Schools

To make sure this year's budget helped all students, including those attending Parochial schools and Yeshivas, the final budget adds \$7.9 million in Comprehensive Attendance Policy Funding. Total non-public aid in the budget is \$171.4 million.

While efforts to include the Education Investment Tax Credit into the NYS Budget were unsuccessful, we will continue to fight for its passage this legislative session. This bill would implement a tax credit for those donating to private or parochial schools.

- **\$20 million** in grants including **\$5 million** in aid to libraries, a full restoration of **\$14.3 million** for teacher centers, and an increase of **\$1 million** for bilingual education.
- **\$30 million** increase in Pre-K funding for 3 and 4 year olds, all while protecting last year's historic investment in Universal Pre-K for New York City.
- **\$98.5 million** for 4201 schools which help students with disabilities.
- An increase of **\$603 million** to reduce more than half of the remaining Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA).
- **\$269 million** to fully reimburse districts for expenses they have incurred such as transportation and BOCES.

Higher Education Road to Success

Earlier this year, the Assembly Majority unveiled the Higher Education Road to Success Initiative aimed at increasing the number of students enrolling in and completing degrees at universities and colleges. The Road to Success also removes obstacles to attending college and invests in skills-development classes to make sure that all New Yorkers have the opportunity to achieve a higher education that leads to a good job.

The plan invests in SUNY and CUNY, like Kingsborough and Brooklyn College, with an increase in support of \$100 per full time student. It also includes:

- **\$4.4 million** increase in Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) funding.
- **\$1.7 million** more in the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) for a total of **\$13.1 million**.
- **\$18.6 million** funding restoration for SUNY hospitals to help support New York's world-class teaching hospitals.
- **\$500,000** more for CUNY LEADS, a specially designed academic career program for students with disabilities.
- In an effort to ensure the buildings and classrooms students learn in are world-class, the budget provides **\$605 million** in capital funding for SUNY and **\$181 million** in capital funding for CUNY.
- The agreement includes a **20%** increase in opportunity programs at CUNY.
- **\$1.28 million** for Centers of Excellence research facilities at public universities.



Assemblyman Abbate speaks at a Women's Health Fair put on by Maimonides Hospital regarding breast cancer prevention.



This past fall, Assemblyman Abbate met with NYS Nurse Association members from the district to discuss their priorities for the legislative session. He thanked them for their hard work and dedication.



Keeping Veterans a Priority

When our brave men and women leave the United States Armed Services, we must provide them with the opportunities and support they need and deserve.

This year's budget includes \$350,000 for Veterans Entrepreneurial Assistance Programs. This will help provide veterans the training and assistance they need to start a new business.

Helping Out Families in Need

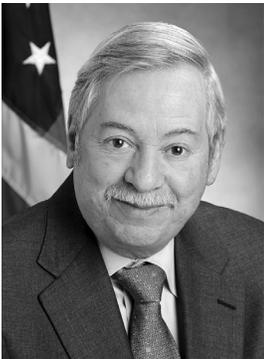
Families who fall on hard times need to know that there is a strong safety net that will help them as they work to get back on their feet. The Assembly remains committed to helping all New Yorkers. The recently passed budget restores **\$24 million** in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) aid for every program that was eliminated under the Governor's proposed budget. Some of the vital programs restored include:

- **\$3 million** for non-residential domestic violence services.
- **\$1.5 million** for career pathways to provide training to young adults to prepare for the workforce.
- **\$1.6 million** for the Displaced Homemakers Program to provide counseling and job training to homemakers to

help them secure employment and become financially independent.

The budget agreement also includes \$34 million to improve our child care system, to make it more affordable and accessible to those who need it. A few examples of this funding include:

- **\$1.8 million** total to CUNY Child Care Centers.
- **\$19.3 million** for the Advantage Afterschool Program.
- **\$9.3 million** for Facilitated Enrollment to expand eligibility for child care assistance to working families.



Assemblyman

**PETER
ABBATE, JR.**

SPRING 2015

Raising the Level of Accountability

Holding public office is a privilege that carries a great deal of responsibility and those who are fortunate enough to have this opportunity should be held to the highest ethical standards. This year's state budget took giant strides in increasing transparency and cracking down on corruption:

- Outside income disclosure for lawmakers—Any public official that earns more than \$10,000 a year on non-governmental employment must disclose the names of their clients or customers and describe the type of services they performed to earn the payment.
- Prohibition of personal use of campaign accounts.

