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increased aid for our schools

Assemblyman **Barron**
is fighting for our schools

Dear Neighbor,

This year's state budget was a hard-fought battle with the governor over the future of New York State's schools.

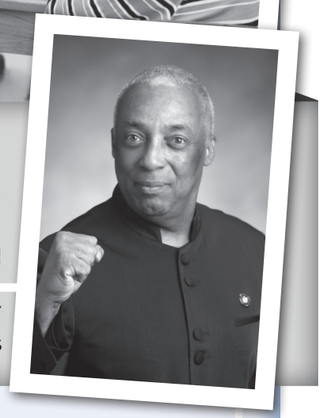
While the governor and Senate attacked both schools and teachers under the guise of so-called "reforms," the Assembly fought back to protect educators and our children.

We secured a huge increase in state aid for our schools – $1.6 billion over last year. And, we negotiated major changes to the governor's proposed policy changes in order to reduce the emphasis on testing and allow the Board of Regents, not the governor, to develop the specifics of teacher evaluations.

Unfortunately, the state constitution gives the governor sweeping budget-making powers – including the ability to insert radical policy proposals into the budget – and leaves the Legislature with few options, except negotiating under the threat of being forced to shut down government. That's something that must change. Until then, I will continue to fight for our children, teachers and schools.

Sincerely,

Charles Barron
Member of Assembly



Assemblyman
Charles Barron

669 Vermont Street | Brooklyn, NY 11207
718-257-5824 | barronc@assembly.state.ny.us

"The Assembly Majority fought for our dedicated, hardworking teachers and **secured vital state aid to help our kids get the education they deserve.**"

– Assemblyman **Charles Barron**

This year's state budget includes $23 billion in aid for New York's schools

The funding includes:

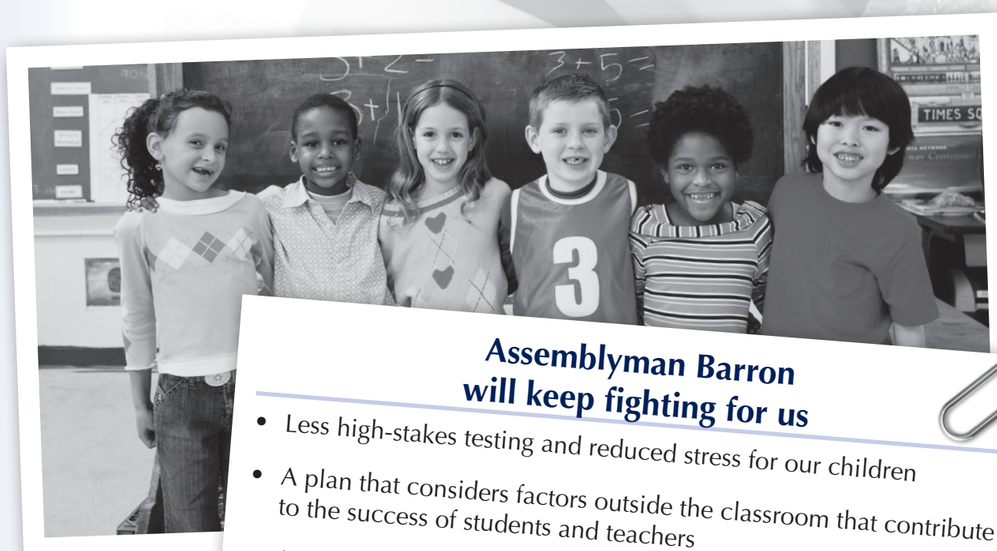
- ✓ an increase of $1.6 billion over last year
- ✓ a $30 million increase in pre-K funding for 3- and 4-year-olds
- ✓ $428 million more for Foundation Aid
- ✓ an increase of $603 million to reduce more than half of the remaining Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA)
- ✓ $75 million in grants for struggling schools
- ✓ a full restoration of $14.3 million for teacher centers
- ✓ an increase of $5 million for libraries
- ✓ $98.5 million for 4201 schools which help students with disabilities
- ✓ an increase of $1 million for bilingual education
- ✓ $171.4 million for nonpublic schools

The governor's proposal would have hurt teachers and students

- Under the governor's budget proposal, half of a teacher's performance would have been based on state test scores, which would have forced teaching to the test
- The majority of observations of teachers would have been done by "outside" evaluators
- Increases in school aid would have been tied to his education agenda

The Assembly fought for our educators

- Teacher evaluations will place less emphasis on state test scores and allow other measures of teacher effectiveness to be used
- The Board of Regents will study and consult with additional experts in order to finalize the specifics of the teacher evaluation system
- State aid for schools will increase by $1.6 billion over last year



Assemblyman Barron will keep fighting for us

- Less high-stakes testing and reduced stress for our children
- A plan that considers factors outside the classroom that contribute to the success of students and teachers
- A system that addresses concerns of parents and teachers