



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

2026 JOINT BUDGET HEARING

January 29, 2026 – 9:30 AM

ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

1. New York State Education Department

Betty A. Rosa
Commissioner

2. New York City Department of Education

Kamar Samuels
Chancellor

Panel A:

3. United Federation of Teachers

Michael Mulgrew
President

4. New York State United Teachers

Melinda Person
President

5. Council of School Supervisors and Administrators

Henry Rubio
President

6. School Administrators Association of NYS

Cynthia Gallagher PhD.
Director, Government Relations

Panel B:

7. Conference of Big 5 School Districts

Jennifer Pyle
Executive Director

8. Buffalo Public Schools

Pascal Mubenga
Superintendent

9. Rochester City School District	Eric Rosser Superintendent
10. Syracuse City School District	Pam Odom Superintendent
11. Yonkers Public Schools	Anibal Soler Superintendent
12. City school District of Albany	Joseph Hochreiter Superintendent
13. Mount Vernon City School District	Demario Strickland Superintendent
14. Utica City School District	Christopher Spence Superintendent

Panel C:

15. NYS School Boards Association	Brian Fessler Chief Advocacy Officer
16. Association of School Business Officials of NY	Brian Cechnicki Executive Director
17. NYS Parent Teacher Association	Kyle Belokopitsky Executive Director
18. Rural Schools Association of New York	David Little Executive Director
19. BOCES of New York State	Scott Budelmann Legislative Liaison
20. NYS Community Schools Network	Annie Nelson Policy Analyst
21. Educators for Excellence – New York	Lasana Tunica-El Sr. Deputy Director of Campaigns

Panel D:

22. 4201 Schools Association	Antony McLetchie
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		Co-Chair
23. New York State Coalition of 853 Schools		Joseph Trainor President
24. Advocates for Children of New York		Randi Levine Policy Director
25. NYS Coalition of Special Act School		Stephen Beovich President
26. NY Association on Independent Living		Lindsay Miller Executive Director
27. NYS Alliance for Arts Education		Gully Stanford Policy Co-Chair

Panel E:

28. New York Library Association	Maxwell Prime Director Government Relations and Advocacy
29. New York School Bus Contractors Association	Paul Quinn Mori President
30. Teach My Kid to Read	Marion Waldman Executive Director
31. Association of Public Broadcasting Stations of NY	Anthony Hayes CEO of WMHT
32. Democracy Ready NY	Nan Eileen Mead Co-Executive Director
33. NYS Association of Small City School Districts	Robert Breidenstein Executive Director

Panel F:

34. Teach NYS	Sydney Altfield Executive Director
35. Agudath Israel of America	Rabbi Yeruchim Silber

	Director of New York Governmental Relations
36. NYC Charter School Center	James Merriman Chief Executive Officer
37. NYS council of Catholic School Superintendents	James Cultrara Executive Secretary
38. NYS Association of charter Schools	Anna Hall Chief Operating Officer

Panel G:

39. Alliance for Quality Education	Marina Marcou – O’Malley Interim Co - Executive Director
40. The Education Trust – New York	Arlene Benjamin-Gomez Executive Director
41. Coalition for Equitable Education Funding	Chelsea Baytemur Director of Policy and Advocacy
42. YAFFED	Adina Mermelstein Konikoff Executive Director
43. Youth Vote USA	Gregory Lyakhov Student/Columnist
