



Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski

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Spring 2022

Funding Education for the Future



Throughout the state budget negotiations, Assemblyman Zebrowski made education funding a priority. From pre-K to college, this year's budget includes an unprecedented level of support for New York's education system.

Total school funding increased by \$2.1 billion over last year, totaling \$31.2 billion, a historic investment in the future of our children.

The budget also included a Foundation Aid increase of \$1.5 billion, continuing on the path to a full phase-in by the 2023-2024 school year.

Rockland school districts will see an increase of over 24% in Foundation Aid, providing additional dollars to help maintain and expand programming. These increases also help restrict or eliminate property tax increases.

Assemblyman Zebrowski led the way to secure additional funding for pre-K programs, which have been left behind in past years. The budget also includes a significant investment in pre-K with an additional \$125 million to fund thousands of new full day slots.

For students attending college, the budget eliminates the "TAP gap" between TAP funding and actual tuition costs, while also expanding TAP eligibility to 75,000 additional part-time students. To continue to ensure our healthcare system is strong for years to come, this year's budget also includes increased funding to SUNY's High Needs Nursing Programs.

Several mental health initiatives are also included to help students returning to school.

Roadway Improvements on the Way

With potholes and damaged bridges continuing to cause unsafe conditions for drivers, Assemblyman Zebrowski fought for a budget that includes a significant increase to capital funding for local governments. This year, the DOT capital plan will see a 54% increase over previous programs, for a \$6.1 billion investment over the next five years. Alongside funding to repair bridges and repave roads, a new initiative to fix potholes will help ensure a smoother ride for drivers.




New Tax Relief Programs Available

This year's budget includes several tax cuts to help families face rising costs, including:

- A one-year property tax rebate check for households that are eligible for STAR and Enhanced STAR and that have incomes at or below \$250,000. Eligible homeowners will receive this in 2022.
- Accelerating the phase-in of the 2018 middle-class tax cuts that will save taxpayers over \$160 million this fiscal year and over \$600 million in the next.
- A one-time supplemental Earned Income Tax Credit as well as a supplemental Empire State Child Tax Credit for families, providing a maximum of \$334 per child.

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Gas Tax Holiday Starts June 1st

As we continue to see high gas prices, Assemblyman Zebrowski fought to secure a gas tax holiday to help provide relief for drivers. The gas tax suspension began on June 1, 2022, and will continue until December 31, 2022, saving motorists approximately \$585 million. Consumers will see savings of 16 cents per gallon, and counties will also be able to cap their sales tax; providing even further savings.



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