

TESTIMONY

**Hearing on:
Governor's proposed budget for 2016-2017 for Mental Hygiene**

**Presented to:
The New York State Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Joint
Committees
February 3, 2016**



**Shaun D. Francois – President
Local 372 – Board of Education Employees
District Council 372 – AFSCME, AFL-CIO
125 Barclay Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Local372.org**

Good morning, Chairman Farrell, Chairwoman Young and distinguished members of the New York State Senate Finance and the Assembly Ways and Means Committees. My name is Shaun D. Francios I., President of Local 372, District Council 37 and I represent over 23,000 school supportive staff members within the New York City public school system. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Governor's proposed budget for 2016-2017 for Mental Hygiene.

I am here to provide testimony on behalf of our 300 Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention Specialists (SAPIS) within the New York City public school system, which is funded through the state's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

These members perform essential substance abuse prevention and intervention services for the 1.2 million children of New York City. SAPIS counselors help our children cope with increased social pressures from their peers by providing essential mental and emotional support to ensure the child's healthy adolescent development.

300 SAPIS Service 1.2 Million Students

In 2006, there were 502 SAPIS counselors throughout the five boroughs. Today, we are down to only 300 SAPIS serving 1.2 million NYC children. That is a loss of 203 SAPIS counselors since 2006. SAPIS counselors are present in approximately 1,200 New York City schools totaling roughly 1 SAPIS per every 5 schools. This is not enough to combat the rising use of drugs and increased social pressures our youth face thru their peers and social media.

With the growing prescription drug epidemic, our youth are more vulnerable than ever before. The increase in drug and alcohol addiction, experimentation, and dependency, our biggest challenge is to provide support for the increased amount of peer pressures and still address any underlining mental or emotional issues school children and their families face each day.

We have students not only using more drugs and alcohol, but we are witnessing an alarming rise of prescription drug use amongst high school youth, especially in Manhattan and Staten Island. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 45% of people who used heroin were also addicted to prescription opioid painkillers.

In addition, according to the 2013 New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 8.0% of NYC public high school students in grades nine to twelve reported lifetime use of an illicit drug (cocaine, heroin, ecstasy or methamphetamine). Youth residing in Staten Island are reporting the highest proportion of illicit drug use (12.8%), followed by youth who live in Manhattan (11.0%).

Local 372 SAPIS counselors serve in every 32 school districts and all students from K-12, including special education. They specialize not only in substance abuse prevention but also provide students with one on one counseling on anti-bullying, violence prevention, confidence building, goal setting and gang prevention, just to name a few.

SAPIS counselors are also trained to implement the most effective national evidence based programs available. These programs include the Too Good for Drugs curriculum, which is an evidence based program being used in classroom settings, group sessions and one on one youth intervention. This program is increasingly effective with youth exhibiting early signs of drug use. Having an assigned SAPIS counselor providing a wide range of services including individual and group counseling, early intervention services, peer leadership programs, positive youth development activities, crisis intervention, referrals to substance abuse and mental health services, school-wide prevention projects, and parent workshops will make a tremendous difference in the lives of thousands of youth at every school.

SAPIS counselors are critical in laying a child's foundation to create vital life skills needed to handle the increase in social pressures. SAPIS counselors are specially trained and deployed to respond to serious events that affect school communities, such as death of a student or a gang fight. Economically disadvantaged students who are the highest risk for alcohol and substance abuse,

gang involvement, school suspension, disruptive behavior, and multiple violations of the discipline code are referred to SAPIS counselors for intervention services. A specific example of this would be, of the 139 high level crisis situations from Sept. 2014 – March 2015, our SAPIS counselors were deployed to assist in 76 of the incidents.

In order for our youth to become productive members of society, we need your support of the SAPIS program to continue its work. With the \$2 million dollars in funding from the legislature last year, and \$2 million from New York City, we were able to hire 54 new SAPIS counselors; that is 5 additional SAPIS per borough, and the rest were distributed between community schools. **For us to be able to maintain the current number of employees and increase the program, we are asking for an additional \$4 million in support from the legislature.**

The cost of a new hire SAPIS II worker is \$48,641 (with fringe total of \$68,744) and with two years of service the cost is \$55,938 (with fringe total of \$79,057). The investment in these jobs provides professional careers for New York City residents, creates economic stability for many New York City families and hires employees within the community. Without this necessary funding, we will have to terminate those newly added employees and reduced dire needed services.

In 2009, the Federal government ceased funding thru the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act for our SAPIS counselors. In New York's 2014-2015 state budget, OASAS allocated \$14,859,531 million dollars to the NYC Department of Education (DOE) to support the services that these counselors provide.

We are committed to ensuring that this proposal will result in the delivery of effective prevention and intervention services to the students and their families in these schools. SAPIS counselors have consistently implemented evidence based programs with fidelity. Our experienced and committed staff will be models for new staff in providing the highest levels of services to our students.

In conclusion, Local 372 is asking the state legislature to allow us to maintain our current number of employees, and provide additional funding of \$4 million. While there are limited state resources, New York State has always been a leader in making opportunities for our children a priority. Our goal is to encourage more programs that are preventative rather than reactive. It is our responsibility to provide our children with the opportunities to thrive thru a safe and healthy learning environment.

I look forward to working with all of you to make this possible. Again, thank you for the opportunity to come before you. I will answer any questions you may have.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/heroin/>

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/mental/drug-alcohol-data.shtml>

SAPIS Locations

Manhattan	Grades
01M301	6-8
01M332	6-8
01M450 / 02M316	6-12
01M515	9-12
02M308	9-12
02M124 / 02M051	K-5
02M111	K-8
02M126	K-8
02M131	6-8
02M217	K-8
02M296	9-12
02M374	9-12
02M413	6-12
02M475	9-12
02M489	9-12
02M412	9-12
02M560	9-12
02M600	9-12
02M419	9-12
02M630	9-12
02M896	6-8
02M519	9-12
02M520	9-12
03M076	K-8
03M163	K-5
03M242	K-5
03M258 / 03M256	6-8
03M415	6-12
03M485	9-12

03M505	9-12
04M825	6-8
04M050	K-8
04M206	K-8
04M381	6-10
04M409	9-12
04M435	9-12
05M161	K-8
05M129	K-8
05M123	6-8
05M197 / 05M046	K-5
05M285	9-12
05M369	9-12
05M499	6-12
05M685 / 05M692	9-12
06M128	K-5
06M132	K-5
06M004	K-5
06M324	6-8
06M008 / 06M192	K-5
06M098	K-5
06M468	9-12
06M540	9-12

Bronx	Grades
07X151	6-8
07X223	6-8
07X277	K-5
07X296	6-8
07X334	9-12
07X547	9-12
07X527	9-12
08X101	6-8
08X107	K-5
08X367	6-8
08X301	6-8
08X302	6-8
08X305	9-12
08X332	9-12
08X371	K-8
08X375	6-8
08X405	9-12
08X559	9-12
09X022	6-8
09X028	K-5
09X339	6-8
09X058	K-5
09X110	K-5
09X117	6-8
09X145	6-8
09X073	K-5
09X219	6-8
09X324	6-12
09X328	6-8
09X414	9-12
09X517	9-12
10X007	K-5
10X033	K-5
10X045	6-8
10X056	K-5
10X080	6-8
10X254	6-8
10X331	6-8
10X438	9-12
10X440	9-12
10X447	6-8
10X279	K-8
10X280	K-8

10X397	9-12
10X368	6-12
10X141	6-12
10X243	9-12
11X019	K-8
11X181	K-5
11X089	K-8
11X144	6-8
11X153	K-5
11X127	6-8
11X289	6-8
11X462	6-8
11X178	K-5
11X180	6-8
11X287	6-8
11X418	9-12
11X455	9-12
11X556	6-8
12X006	K-5
12X098	6-8
12X050	K-5
12X318	6-8
12X384	6-8
12X682	9-12
12X211	K-8

Brooklyn	Grades
13K009	K-5
13K113	6-8
13K256	K-5
13K305	K-5
13K270	K-5
13K282	K-8
13K430	9-12
13K595	9-12
13K605	9-12
13K670	9-12
14K071	6-12
14K050	6-8
14K059	K-5
14K577	6-8
14K586	6-12
14K610	9-12
15K519	9-12
15K001	K-5
15K124	K-5
15K131	K-5
16K081	K-5
16K455	9-12
17K061	6-8
17K352	6-8
17K722	6-8
17K568	9-12
17K543	9-12
17K524	9-12
17K600	9-12
17K002	6-8
17K221	K-5
17K167	K-5
18K588	6-8
18K068	6-8
18K211	6-8
18K633	9-12
18K566	9-12
18K637	9-12
19K409	6-8
19K306	K-8
19K218	6-8
19K510	9-12
19K660	9-12

19K639	9-12
19K659	9-12
20K223	6-8
20K259	6-8
20K192	K-8
20K062	6-8
20K187	6-8
21K096	6-8
21K525	9-12
21K620	9-12
21K225	K-8
21K468	6-12
21K540	9-12
22K206	K-5
22K052	K-5
22K195	K-5
22K109	K-8
22K203	K-5
22K078	6-8
22K240	6-8
22K251	K-5
22K269 / 22K152	K-5
22K014	6-8
22K535	9-12
22K198 / 22K234	K-5
22K278	6-8
22K405	9-12
22K425	9-12
23K150	K-5
23K156	K-5
23K165	K-8
23K493	9-12
23K323	K-8
32K299	K-5
32K106	K-5
32K377	K-8
32K291	6-8
32K347	6-8
32K045	K-5
32K549	9-12
32K556	9-12

Queens	Grades
24Q119	6-8
24Q093 / 24Q128	K-8
24Q610	9-12
24Q061	6-8
24Q125	6-8
24Q077	6-8
24Q077	6-8
24Q296	9-12
24Q455	9-12
24Q485	9-12
24Q550	9-12
24Q073 / 24Q153	6-8
25Q025 / 25Q029	6-8
25Q237	K-8
25Q185	K-8
25Q154	K-8
25Q020 / 25Q200	K-8
25Q022	K-5
25Q024	K-5
25Q425	9-12
25Q460	9-12
25Q219 / 25Q499	K-8
25Q032 / 25Q193	K-5
25Q525	9-12
25Q250	6-8
26Q172	6-8
26Q266	K-8
26Q074	6-8
26Q435	9-12
26Q115 / 26Q178	K-8
26Q430	9-12
26Q495	9-12
26Q067	6-8
27Q042	K-8
27Q043	K-8
27Q053	6-8
27Q210	6-8
27Q047 / 27Q207	K-8
27Q183	K-8
27Q260	9-12
27Q262	9-12
27Q400	9-12
27Q475	9-12

27Q480	9-12
28Q190 / 28Q220	K-8
28Q217	6-8
28Q620	9-12
28Q620	9-12
28Q008	6-8
28Q440	9-12
28Q505 / 30Q450	9-12
29Q238 / 29Q059	6-8
29Q109	6-8
29Q498	9-12
29Q195	K-5
29Q134 / 29Q156	K-8
29Q272	9-12
29Q192	6-8
30Q011 / 30Q122	K-8
30Q070 / 30Q112	K-5
30Q078 / 30Q166	K-8
30Q227 / 30Q230	6-8
30Q145 / 30Q010	6-8
30Q126 / 30Q127	K-8
30Q111	K-8
30Q069 / 30Q092	K-5
30Q204	6-8
30Q450	9-12
30Q450	9-12
30Q501	9-12

Staten Island	Grades
31R002	6-8
31R003	K-5
31R007	6-8
31R019	K-5
31R022	K-5
31R039	K-5
31R042	K-5
31R053	K-5
31R075	6-8
31R024	6-8
31R051	6-8
31R450	9-12
31R600	9-12
31R605	9-12
31R445	9-12
31R052	K-5
31R034	6-8
31R061	6-8
31R072	6-8
31R027	6-8
31R440	9-12
31R455	9-12
31R460	9-12

SAPIS Assignments as of September 2015



