



# BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST SUMMARY



The Buffalo Public School District is extremely appreciative of this esteemed Legislative body for taking the time today to hear the needs of the Buffalo Public Schools' children for this upcoming school year. As we know, the needs of all children continue to increase across our nation, and so we are equally appreciative of the thoughtfulness of the Governor's 2025 Budget Proposal. Incorporating the recommended changes to the proposed Foundation Aid formula from the Rockefeller Study is a huge game changer and a welcoming starting point.

### **BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS: A DISTRICT WHERE EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE ARE THE FOCUS**

#### **New Mandates:**

- **Cell Phone and Dual Enrollment:** New imposed mandates must include funding to ensure that adequate training, community notification, resources and supplies happen.

#### **Charter School Inequities:**

- **Moratorium:** We are requesting that a much-needed moratorium be instituted, in the City of Buffalo, for the development of new or expanded charter schools. Currently 28% of City of Buffalo children in grade K-12 are enrolled in charter schools. Though the district this year has had an increase in enrollment from children returning to BPS from area charters, the students return due to expulsions, an inability for charter schools to adequately meet the students' academic needs and limited medical and social emotional support offerings. The charter schools do not offer innovative programs not currently offered by the BPS District.
- **Recoup Funding When an Improper Intercept Filed:** We request this Legislative body review the statute on charter school intercept rights and create legislation that will allow school districts, Buffalo in particular, to expeditiously recover overpayment of funds to charter schools due to improperly intercepted. BPS has documented cases where overpayments have happened and where there is no mechanism to recover overpayments.
- **Sole Authority to Board of Regents to Approve New/ Expanded Charter Schools:** We request that this esteemed body authorize the Board of Regents, who are entrenched in K-12 educational processes, to be the sole entity to approve new and any expansion of charter schools; thus abolishing SUNY's approval authority.

#### **Health Services Grant:**

- **Add Back:** We request, at minimum, that this body will again add back the \$1.2 million dollars that is eliminated in the Governor's proposal that supports critical health care services for children. Health related cost and the needs of children continuously escalate. Also, the District is responsible for providing health related services to area charter, private, and parochial schools upon request and this too is increasing.

#### **Special Services Aid:**

- **Inclusion of Funding for 9th Grade Students:** We request that this body sees and understands that students' high school careers begin in grade 9. Thus, funding is needed to support our grade 9 students who are enrolled in CTE programming coursework as well as exposure to community based partnerships with businesses. Due to an antiquated formula including Special Services Aid is not provided to the District for CTE students until they reach grade 10.

#### **Transportation:**

- **Safe Passages:** BPS must assure parents and caregivers that the District will take all possible measures to ensure that their children will have safe passage to and from school every day. Funding is desperately needed to cover distances below the minimum allowable mileage, which is 1.5 miles when community related and/or traffic issues warrant it.