



**SASKIA TRAILL**

**PRESIDENT & CEO EXPANDED SCHOOLS**

**TESTIMONY FOR THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2027**

**EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**JANUARY 29, 2026**

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On behalf of ExpandED Schools, I am Saskia Traill, President & CEO. It is my honor to submit testimony for the Joint Legislative Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Budget Proposal: Elementary and Secondary Education. Thank you to Chair Krueger, Chair Pretlow, Chair Mayer, Chair Benedetto, and distinguished members of the Legislature for the opportunity to submit testimony today. ExpandED Schools is a nonprofit organization dedicated to closing academic opportunity gaps by increasing access to enriched educational experiences for underserved youth. We design and advance models of expanded learning that ensure all students have the opportunities they need to achieve academic success.

We write to you today to strongly support Governor Hochul's proposed \$9 million investment in High-Impact Tutoring (HIT) within the FY27 Executive Budget. We commend the Governor for recognizing that accelerating academic recovery requires evidence-based, scalable solutions. **To further amplify this impact, we respectfully urge the Legislature to allocate an additional \$1 million, bringing the total investment for HIT to \$10 million in the FY27 budget.** This comprehensive funding represents a critical step toward ensuring that students who have fallen behind in math and literacy receive the intensive, individualized support they need to succeed.

Research consistently shows that high-impact tutoring, defined as tutoring provided in small groups (ratios of 1:4 or less), at least three times per week, by consistent, trained tutors, is one of the most effective interventions for improving educational achievement<sup>1</sup>. At ExpandED Schools, we have seen the power of this model firsthand. Serving as the backbone organization for the New York City High-Impact Tutoring initiative, we have collaborated with 123 schools across 12 community school districts to ensure that math and literacy tutoring was provided to over 13,500 students from 2022-25 and project to reach an additional 6,500 students in the 2025-26 school year. Outcomes are strong and New York City, along with other programs throughout the state, is poised to ensure quality tutoring, but lacks the sustainable funds to do so. State funding is essential to support and expand this work, enabling us to reach more students and maintain the high standards of quality that drive results.

We also want to acknowledge the leadership of the New York State High-Impact Tutoring Coalition and the many elected officials who have championed this issue. We are particularly grateful to Assembly Member Brian Cunningham and Senator Nathalia Fernandez, who have worked to build effective policies and funding to support high-impact tutoring throughout New York. We have been proud to engage with them and other legislators who understand that addressing long-standing educational inequities requires targeted action.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://nssa.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/High-Impact%20Tutoring%20One-Pager.pdf>



In addition, we strongly support Governor Hochul's proposed reinvestment in Extended Learning Time within the FY27 Executive Budget. These funds enable districts throughout New York State to offer young people more learning time, building on a robust model of school-community partnership to achieve a variety of academic, social, and emotional goals for the entire school community.

In closing, we urge the Legislature to increase the allocation for High-Impact Tutoring to \$10 million and to sustain the investment in Extended Learning Time (ELT). Thank you for your time and your continued dedication to the students of New York State. We look forward to working with you throughout the budget process. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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