



Testimony on the FY 2027 Executive Budget Proposal Higher Education

CSEA represents more than 13,000 workers across the State University of New York (SUNY) System, including at SUNY Hospitals, state-operated campuses, community colleges, and System Administration. Our members are the backbone of the system, ensuring that SUNY continues to serve its students, patients, and the surrounding community. Governor Hochul's Executive Budget includes several proposals that would impact SUNY and the CSEA members that work there.

- CSEA **recommends** building on the Governor's proposed \$595 million for critical maintenance projects at SUNY state-operated campuses by adding an additional **\$405 million** to help address the backlog of critical maintenance issues.
- CSEA **supports** the \$100 million in operating appropriations for SUNY Downstate.
- CSEA **supports** the extension of the community college funding floor.

Critical Maintenance

CSEA **recommends** building on the Governor's proposed \$595 million for critical maintenance projects at SUNY state-operated campuses by adding an **additional \$405 million** to help address the backlog of critical maintenance issues.

SUNY campuses are economic engines across New York - educating the workforce, supporting research and innovation, and supplying graduates who strengthen existing employers and help launch new businesses across the state. However, years of deferred maintenance have created an estimated **\$10 billion backlog** of critical capital needs across the SUNY system. Aging facilities and infrastructure threaten the safety and well-being of students while also undermining competitiveness in attracting and retaining students. Expanding upon the governor's proposed capital investment is a necessary step towards closing the maintenance backlog and ensuring that SUNY has the resources to succeed.

SUNY Downstate

SUNY Downstate is an essential healthcare provider in central Brooklyn, serving one of the most diverse and medically underserved communities in the state. The hospital provides life-saving care to thousands of patients each year, regardless of their ability to pay. However, years of financial strain have placed enormous pressure on the hospital and its workforce. CSEA **supports** Governor Hochul's Executive Budget proposal to provide **\$100 million** in operating support for SUNY Downstate. This funding is critical to stabilizing SUNY

Downstate's finances, which will allow the hospital to remain open and able to deliver essential healthcare services.

Community Colleges

Community colleges play a vital role in preparing New York's workforce by providing accessible, affordable education and training for in-demand careers. They equip students with the skills needed to enter the workforce quickly, support career advancement, and help meet the evolving needs of industries across the state. CSEA **supports** Governor Hochul's proposed extension of the community college funding floor. Without the funding floor, these campuses would be subject to a \$61 million loss in formula aid due to enrollment declines. These cuts would hamper workforce development and reduce access to education across the state.

Conclusion

The Executive Budget includes meaningful proposals to support SUNY campuses, hospitals, and community colleges across the state. CSEA urges the Legislature to support and expand on these investments to address long-standing maintenance needs, stabilize SUNY Downstate, and support community colleges. Doing so will strengthen campuses and hospitals, safeguard essential services, and support the workers who make SUNY run every day.

For more information, contact:

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