



BUFFALO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024-25 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST SUMMARY

Health Services Grant:

Restore the \$1.2 million cut and provide a \$4.8 million permanent increase in Buffalo's **Health Services allocation** (currently \$5.3 million); bringing this total to \$10.1 million. This will offset the escalating costs of health-related services that were climbing before the Pandemic and help us meet our statutory obligation to providing services to charter and private schools in Buffalo—without compromising services for our students.

Governor's Proposed Change in the CPI Factor used in Foundation Aid Calculation

The Governor proposes the use of a lower inflationary factor (2.4%) than what the current law formula projects (3.8%). This has a negative impact on our Foundation Aid. Going forward the FA formula needs to be revised to reflect unique student needs. The revised formula needs to be transparent, predictable, and equitable.

Special Services Aid:

Increase the per pupil cap under **Special Services Aid** and expand funding to cover 9th grade students participating in CTE programs. Our 9th grade students participate fully in community-based partnerships with business and higher education institutions to launch their CTE programs. These changes could result in approximately \$3,000,000 in additional reimbursements for costs incurred.

Pre-Kindergarten Programs:

Increase funding for **Pre-Kindergarten programs** to reduce the local share cost and allow us to expand to 3-year-old programming. The current local share for covering unfunded PK (including 3-year-old programs) is approximately \$9.1 million.

Board of Regents Proposed Change to Formula for Charter School SPED Tuitions

The Board of Regents has proposed a change in the calculation of SPED tuitions to the Charter Schools. This proposal is currently in the comment stage and is to be voted upon at a March 2024 meeting to be implemented July 1, 2024. This change would result in approximately \$11 million annually in additional costs to the district.

Proliferation of Start-Up Charter Schools:

Authorize only the Board of Regents to approve new charter schools and charter school expansions and abolish the authority to approve charters for the SUNY Charter School Institute.

Apply a moratorium on approving new or expanded charter schools within saturated districts. Otherwise, new and expanded charters are continuing to populate the City of Buffalo with more general education K-8 seats. Buffalo has reached a tipping point, whereby approximately 34% of school age children are enrolled in Charter Schools.

"Reverse Intercept" to Recover Overpayments made to Charter Schools:

BPS requests legislation to allow for the recovery of prior year over payments to charter schools. This stems from the OSC audit report 2019M-122. There is presently no mechanism to recover overpayments.

Transportation Funding:

Our District wants to assure parents that their children will have safe passage to and from school. To keep that promise, **authorization and funding is needed to cover distances below the minimum** allowable mileage (1.5 miles) when community or traffic conditions warrant it.