

Alliance for Quality Education

Issue Briefing



Historic Victory: Fully Funded Foundation Aid = Fully Funded Schools!

Schools across the country have been underfunded for years, especially within Black, Brown, and low-income communities.

Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE): AQE and parents organized about inequitable and underfunded schools in their district. Led by Robert Jackson, they sued NYS in 1993.

- In 2006, we won! NYS was legally obligated to pay public schools \$5.5 billion across the state and created the foundation aid formula to distribute the funds equitably.
- In 2021, the NYS enacted budget included a 3 year plan to fully fund Foundation Aid.
- 2023 was the first time that students started their school year with the full funding that was committed in 2007. 2023 completed the delivery of almost \$6 billion to public schools



Education Justice Fight: Full Funding & Accountability

Foundation Aid: The Foundation Aid formula was created over a decade ago; does not fully capture the current cost of educating students. **It is time for NYS to conduct a new costing out study and update the formula by providing the State Education Department with the resources to engage with education finance experts to evaluate and revise the formula while maintaining the principles of equity.** This process must be inclusive and collaborative by engaging parents, students, teachers and community members.

Close the federal funding gap: Ensure that school districts in danger of cutting programs, services and staff because of the expiration of the federal relief funding have the amount they need to continue to fund those programs. We estimate that approximately a quarter to a third (\$3 to \$4 billion) of the federal funding that was provided to school districts between 2020 and 2021 is funding programs necessary to meet students' needs.

The Revenue Fight

- We are currently facing a \$8 billion deficit across the state
- New York State now has 120 billionaires (up from 112 last year)
- During the pandemic, their wealth has increased by more than 77 billion dollars while 2 million New Yorkers have lost their jobs.
- 92% of New York voters support taxing the rich

The Impact of Charter Schools

A MAJORITY OF NEW YORK CITY'S SCHOOL AID INCREASE GOES TO

CHARTER SCHOOLS.



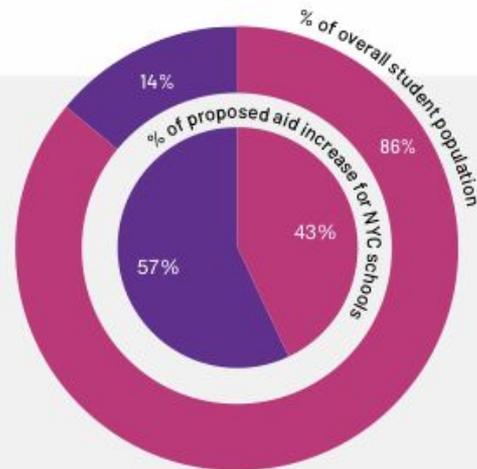
In New York City, public schools enroll 1,033,669 students, while charter schools enroll 145,000 students – **just 14% of students in New York City.**¹

In 2022, New York City's public schools are slated to receive a \$349 million increase in Foundation Aid. But New York City is obligated to increase aid to charter schools by over \$200 million – **57% of the total increase in state operating aid for public schools going to just 14% of students.**

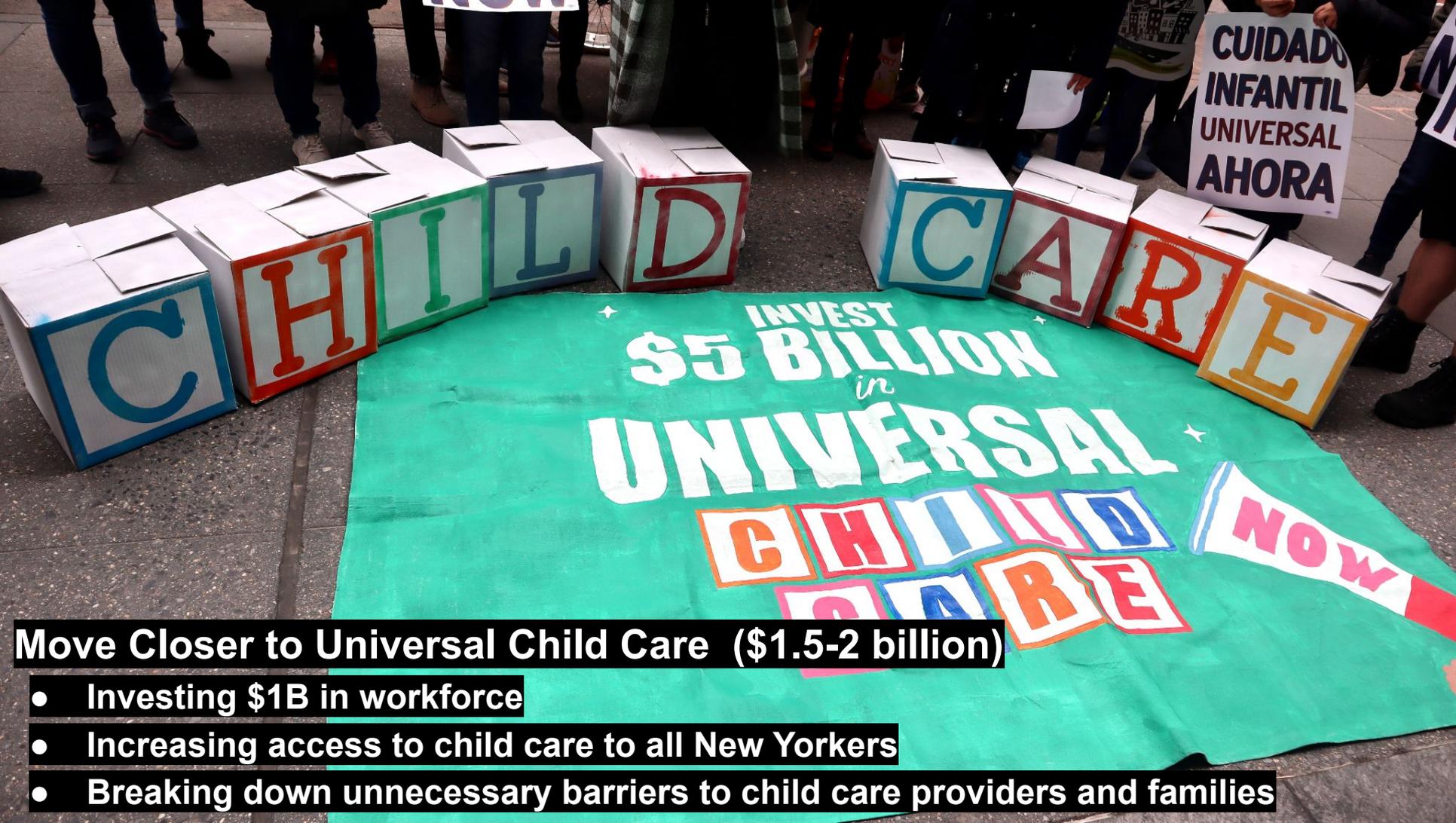
HOW?

State law mandates that local school districts pay tuition to charter schools in that district – payments that in recent years have been two or three times larger than what the district spends on the students attending public schools.

The result is that privately run charter schools get **larger increases per student than public schools, even though they educate only a fraction of students.**



- New York City public schools
- New York City charter schools



CUIDADO
INFANTIL
UNIVERSAL
AHORA

INVEST
\$5 BILLION
in
UNIVERSAL

CHILD
CARE
NOW

Move Closer to Universal Child Care (\$1.5-2 billion)

- Investing \$1B in workforce
- Increasing access to child care to all New Yorkers
- Breaking down unnecessary barriers to child care providers and families

Overview of Our Work

- Fund our schools!
 - Update foundation aid!
 - Raise revenue by taxing NY's ultra wealthy to pay for the huge fiscal gap created by the reduction in federal funding
- Childcare for all: Move closer to universal child care by investing in workforce wages and benefits and ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to child care assistance
- Continue political education on impact of charters
- A clear phased-out plan to end mayoral control

New York State Power Structure/ Key Players



Kathy Hochul (D)
Governor of New York State

Executive



Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D)
Majority Leader of the New York State
Senate

State Senate



Carl Heastie (D)
Speaker of the New York State
Assembly

State Assembly

In Summary...

- **In NYC: NYC's school district is the largest school district across the country.**
- **However, our schools have remained underfunded.**
 - **Refusal to tax the rich, disproportionately funding institutions such as NYPD while underfunding social and academic safety nets that would benefit our schools, in addition to prioritizing private and charter schools and not public schools have all contributed to the issues we're experiencing today.**