



Fiscal Year 2025 Contracts For Excellence and Class Size Engagement

FY 2025 Proposed Plan
CEC 15 Hearing - District 15

June 4, 2024

Contracts for Excellence (C4E) Background

- C4E legislation was established as part of the 2007-08 Enacted State Budget under Foundation Aid and requires that a portion of Foundation Aid be used for specific restricted purposes.
- C4E requires that funding be allocated toward specific programs that raise the achievement of the students with the greatest educational need including, but not limited to those students with limited English proficiency, students in poverty and students with disabilities.
- In 2022, C4E legislation was updated to include requirements related to class size limits.

Contracts for Excellence (C4E) Background

Funding must be spent only within the following initiatives. For illustration, examples of programs by initiative, subject to SED approval, are included below.

- Additional Instructional Time: “Time on Task”. **Example:** extended school year, after school academic support.
- Model Programs for Multilingual Learners. **Example:** expansion of bilingual resources materials in libraries.
- Full Day Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. **Example:** adding classes (additional staff) and/or costs related to implementing full day Pre-Kindergarten 4K.
- Class Size Reduction. **Example:** hiring teachers/paying for teacher salaries to produce a reduction in the student/teacher ratio
- Teacher and Principal Quality Initiatives. **Example:** the creation of a non-cash incentive program for high quality teachers to teach in high needs areas
- Middle/High School Restructuring. **Example:** expand participation in Advanced Placement programs.
- Additionally, the SED Commissioner may authorize districts to implement experimental programs. Such authorization must be granted in advance of implementation.
- More information about eligible uses and requirements may be found at NYSED’s website <https://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/C4E/htm/researchandguide.html>

Contracts for Excellence (C4E) for FY2025

- C4E is increasing to \$803 million for FY2025.
 - An additional \$45 million will be allocated in alignment with the student needs weights as issued by SED plus the school's capacity to meet the state's class size reduction target.
 - As in prior years, \$183 million of C4E is embedded in FSF. This was previously categorized as Maintenance of Effort. This year, it will be identified for each school in a separate allocation category for greater transparency.

Proposed Allocation of \$803 million

▪ Discretionary - \$487 million

- These funds are allocated to schools via the C4E SAM 5, and may be used for any eligible C4E purpose at the discretion of the school.
- This includes \$45 million of additional funding which can be used for any allowable purpose under C4E, allocated with consideration for a school's physical space to meet the state's class size reduction mandate as the economic need index at a school.
- Principals will work with their School Leadership Teams (SLTs) to plan the use of this funding for SY 2024-25 in alignment with eligible program categories. They may choose to change the use of the funding from SY 2023-24 or to maintain existing staffing positions or programs that were funded in SY 2023-24.

▪ Targeted & Maintenance of Effort - \$316 million

- These funds are allocated to schools in support of specific eligible programs. Schools receiving allocations were chosen based on (a) overall student need and (b) capacity to carry out the specific program.
 - \$183 million – Fair Student Funding
 - \$ 87 million – Integrated Co-Teaching Classrooms
 - \$ 30 million – Summer Program
 - \$ 9 million – Full Day Pre-Kindergarten
 - \$ 7 million - Autism Spectrum Disorder Classrooms

Proposed Allocation of Funds Citywide

Allocation Type	Amount	%
Discretionary Existing (Schools decide on use within allowable programs)	\$441,938,709	55.07%
Fair Student Funding (Targeted: Schools must spend for this purpose)	\$182,800,853	22.78%
Integrated Co-Teaching Classrooms (Targeted: Schools must spend for this purpose)	\$86,591,823	10.79%
Discretionary New (Discretionary funding targeted to schools with high poverty and space to implement class size reduction)	\$45,002,159	5.61%
Summer Programming (Maintenance of Effort)	\$30,000,159	3.74%
Full Day Pre-Kindergarten (Targeted: Schools must spend for this purpose)	\$8,979,572	1.12%
Autism Spectrum Disorder Classrooms (Targeted: Schools must spend for this purpose)	\$7,200,000	0.90%
Total	\$802,513,275	100.00%

Proposed Allocation of Funds District 15

Allocation Type	Amount	%
Discretionary Existing (Schools decide on use within allowable programs)	\$11,246,389	49.77%
Fair Student Funding (Targeted: Schools must spend for this purpose)	\$4,805,290	21.26%
Integrated Co-Teaching Classrooms (Targeted: Schools must spend for this purpose)	\$3,527,502	15.61%
Discretionary New (Discretionary funding targeted to schools with high poverty and space to implement class size reduction)	\$1,537,545	6.80%
Summer Programming (Maintenance of Effort)	\$533,522	2.36%
Full Day Pre-Kindergarten (Targeted: Schools must spend for this purpose)	\$585,247	2.59%
Autism Spectrum Disorder Classrooms (Targeted: Schools must spend for this purpose)	\$363,238	1.61%
Total	\$22,598,733	100.00%

Public Comment for Contracts for Excellence

- We will take public feedback into account in the coming weeks as we continue to work toward complying with this mandate.
- The deadline for submitting public comment will be June 24, 2024.
- Educators, parents and caregivers, and all other members of the New York City community may submit their comments by email to contractsforexcellence@schools.nyc.gov

Class Size Reduction Plan

- A **draft** plan has been posted as a part of the Contracts for Excellence public process
- Members of the public are able to give feedback through this process
- Following public feedback, NYCPS will work with the teachers' and principals' unions to finalize the plan. Under the law, these unions must sign off on the plan prior to it being finalized
- The plan outlines school-level policies and central-level policies

Summary of Draft Class Size Reduction Plan

- Plan includes:
 - Updated statistics on class size compliance across NYCPS
 - Proposal to set class size reduction targets for districts for superintendents to distribute across schools, to ensure Principals are prioritizing class sizes
 - Non-exhaustive list of strategies that schools may undertake to reduce class sizes
 - Additional funding for class size, including an additional \$45 million in C4E funds, and an additional \$137 million that schools may only use for class size.
 - Updated capital planning strategy that considers a range of school needs and ensures seats in development are meeting existing school needs
 - Multiple strategies to support teacher recruitment and retention
 - A continued focus on high poverty schools
 - Improvements in data collection and analysis to support future implementation

Public Comment for Class Size Reduction Plan

- We will take public feedback into account in the coming weeks as we continue to work towards complying with this mandate.
- The deadline for submitting public comment will be June 24, 2024
- Educators, parents and caregivers, and all other members of the New York City community may submit their comments by email to ClassSize@schools.nyc.gov