



# Contracts for Excellence

FY 2021 Proposed Plan  
*CEC 15*  
December 2020



# Contracts for Excellence (C4E) Overview

- NYCDOE receives Foundation Aid from the State, making up a portion of the overall budget.
- A November 2006 Court of Appeals decision stated that every public school child in the State has a right to a "sound basic education" and that the State has the responsibility to increase funding for New York City's public schools.
  - As a result of this court decision, the New York State Legislature passed legislation requiring that, for each school district that has at least one school that requires academic progress or is in need of improvement, the school district would receive an increase in foundation aid and a portion of that foundation aid would be subject to the categorical spending requirements of the Contract for Excellence. Funds were first received in the 2007-2008 school year.
- These funds, under State law, must be distributed to schools that meet certain requirements and must be spent by those schools in designated program areas, as set forth in the Contract for Excellence legislation.

# Contracts for Excellence (C4E) Requirements

## 1. Funds must support specific program initiatives:

- **Class Size Reduction** – *opening additional class sections, creating more classrooms or school buildings, assigning more than one teacher to a classroom, and other approved methods, to facilitate student attainment of State learning standards, with priority given to pre-K through grade 12 students in overcrowded schools, particularly those requiring academic progress, schools in need of improvement, schools in corrective action, and schools in restructuring status*
- **Time on Task** – *programs focusing on students who may require additional or increased individualized attention in order to raise achievement*
- **Teacher & Principal Quality Initiatives** – *programs supporting development & retention of high quality teachers and principals for raising achievement in struggling schools*
- **Middle & High School Restructuring** – *instructional and structural changes in middle and high schools to support class size reduction and raise achievement in struggling schools*
- **Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten Programs**
- **Model Programs for English Language Learners** – *programs aimed at supporting schools in adopting “best practices” for raising achievement among English Language Learners*

# Contracts for Excellence Requirements (cont'd)

**2. Funds should be used towards meeting schools' overall educational goals as outlined in the School Comprehensive Educational Plan (SCEP) and must be allocated predominantly to students with the greatest educational needs, such as**

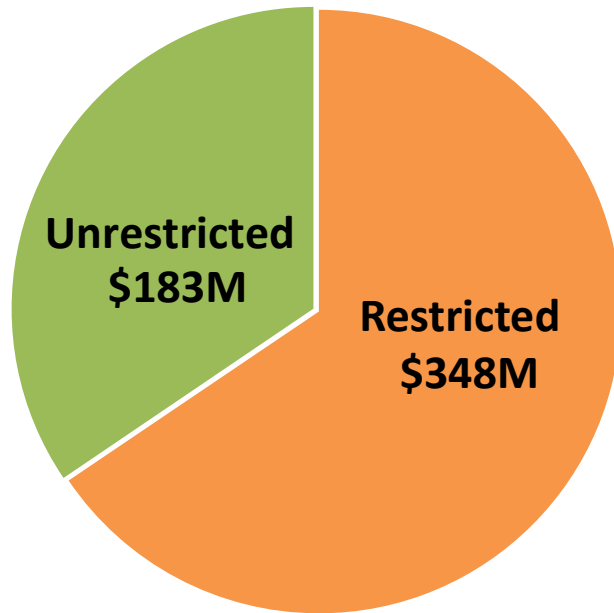
- English Language Learners
- Students in Poverty
- Students with Disabilities
- Students with Low Academic Achievement or At Risk of Not Graduating

**3. Funds must supplement, not supplant, local funding or other grants:**

- Expenditures made using C4E funds must “supplement, not supplant” funding provided by the school district; however, SED has provided guidance explaining that certain expenditures may be paid for with C4E funds even though these programs or expenditures were originally or have been typically paid for by the district or by other grants. For example, if a program had been funded by a different grant, but that grant funding has been cut, then C4E funds can be used to fund the program.
- For new or expansion of existing programs only

# State C4E Funding Breakdown 2020-21

**Total = \$531 million**



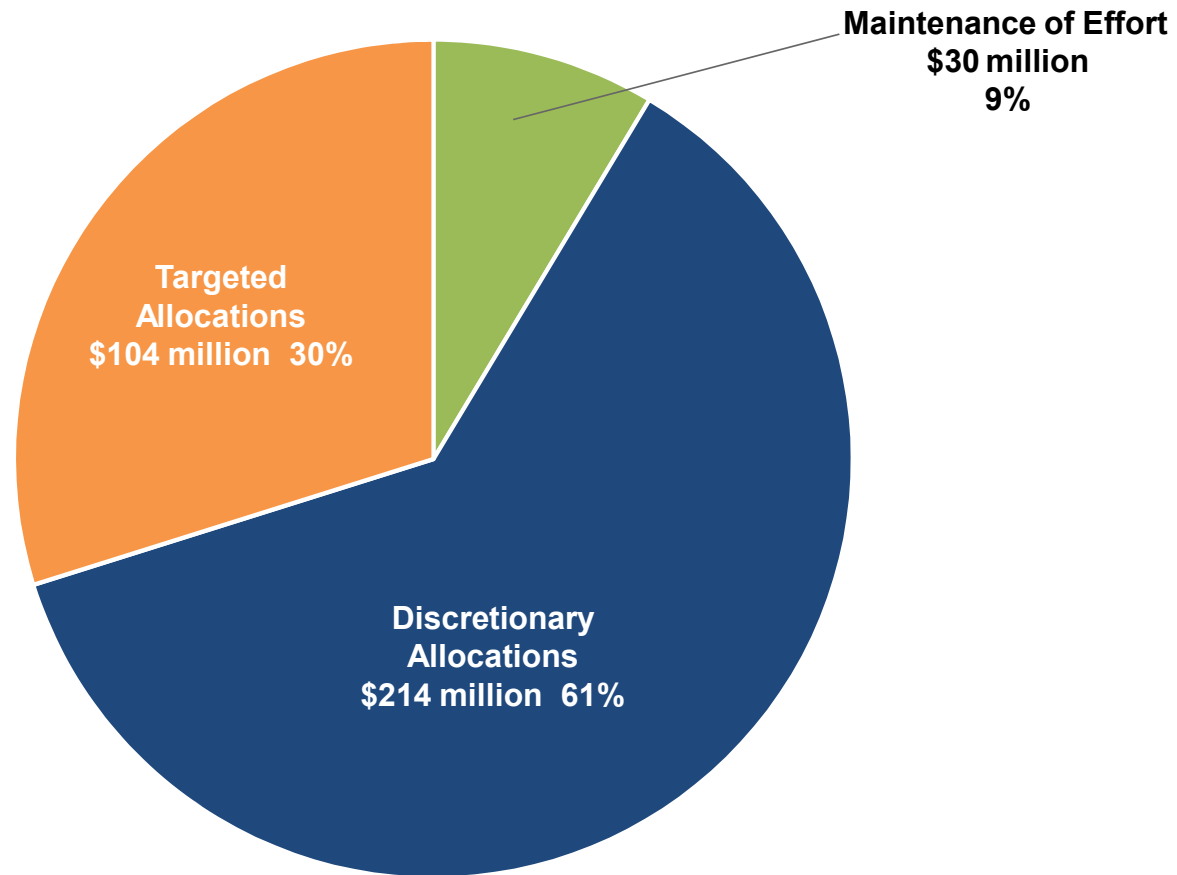
- Unrestricted funds are not subject to C4E rules and may be used as needed. \$183 million is embedded in Fair Student Funding, which is the primary funding source for schools. Details for Fair Student Funding can be found by visiting:

[https://www.nycenet.edu/offices/finance\\_schools/budget/DSBPO/allocationmemo/fy20\\_21/fy21\\_docs/fy2021\\_sam001\\_1b.htm](https://www.nycenet.edu/offices/finance_schools/budget/DSBPO/allocationmemo/fy20_21/fy21_docs/fy2021_sam001_1b.htm)

- Restricted funds must comply with C4E guidelines. \$348 million is distributed through school allocations. The State has not given DOE any additional C4E funding above the amount it provided last year.
- NYCDOE is in “Maintenance of Effort” status, meaning that C4E funds will be used to maintain programs that were approved in prior years.

# NYC's 2020-21 Preliminary C4E Plan

How We Propose to Allocate the \$348 Million Restricted Funds



The FY 2021 Contracts for Excellence allocations described in this plan are preliminary. Funds are subject to a public engagement process and approval by the State Education Department. Please note that distribution of all funds is subject to allocation guidelines as specified in State regulations.

## Discretionary Allocations to Schools

Amount	<p><b>\$214 million</b> in restricted Contracts for Excellence funds were released to 1,400+ schools in May 2020.</p> <p><i>61% of total restricted Contract funds.</i></p>
Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Continuity of service for existing C4E programs.</li><li>➤ However, if a school cannot maintain effort because of significant changes in its student population or its overall instructional strategy, it could choose to reallocate funds to a different allowable program area.</li></ul>

## Targeted Allocations to Schools

Amount	<p>About <b>\$104 million</b> of C4E funds were targeted for specific programs. Schools receiving allocations were chosen based on a) overall student need and b) capacity to carry out the specific programs.</p> <p><b>30% of total restricted Contract funds</b></p>
Use	<p>Funds will be allocated directly to schools for specific programs, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ \$90.7 million – <i>Integrated Co – Teaching Classrooms (ICT) (Formerly Collaborative Team Teaching (CTT))</i></li> <li>➤ \$9.09 million – <i>Full-Day Pre-K</i></li> <li>➤ \$4.7 million – <i>Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Classrooms</i></li> </ul>

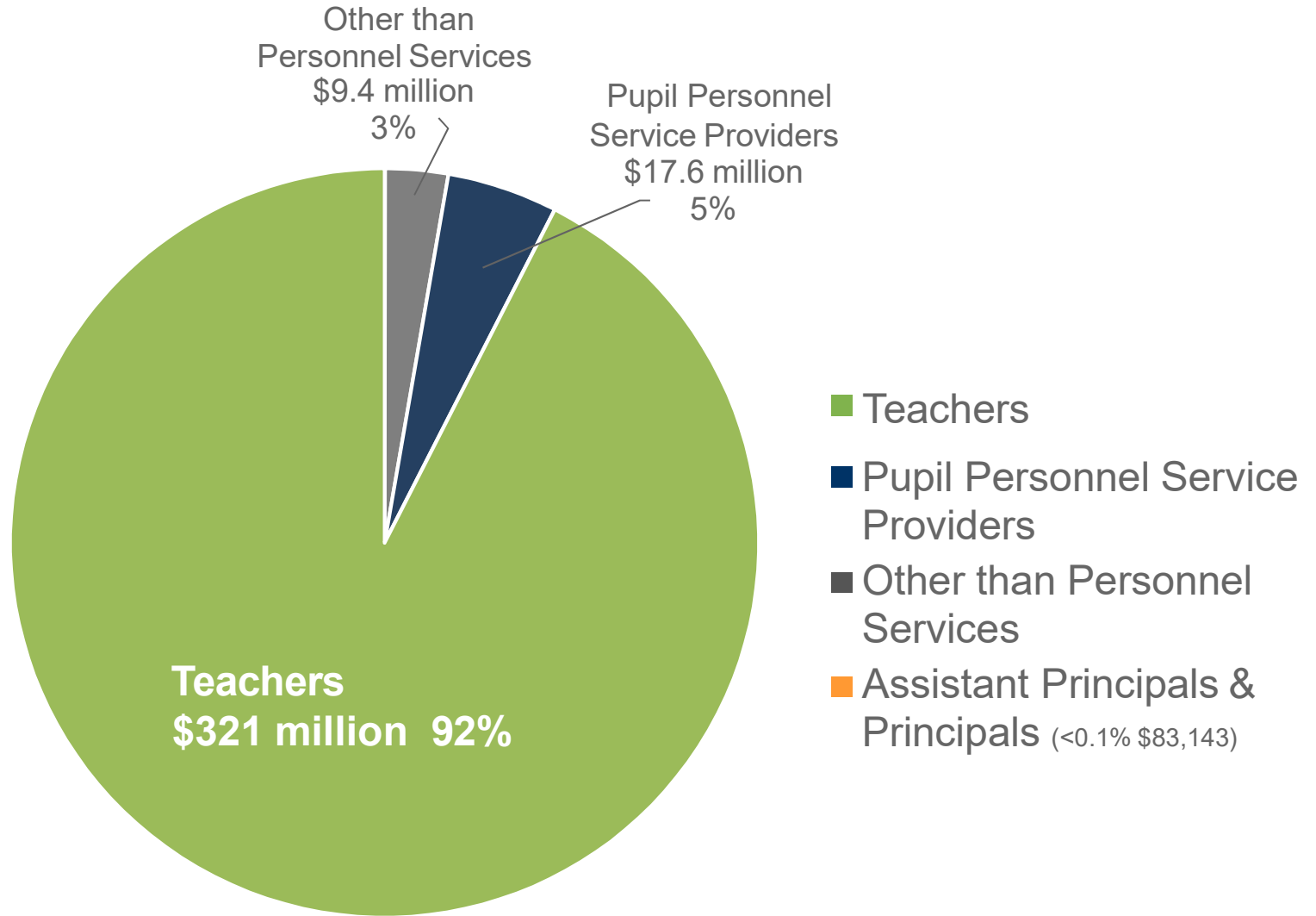
## Maintenance of Effort

Amount	<p><b>\$30 million</b></p> <p><b>9% of total restricted Contract funds</b></p>
Use	<p>The Department proposes to spend these funds to maintain summer programs impacting the students with the lowest academic achievement in the City.</p>



# How C4E Dollars Are Spent

## Expenditures for the \$348 Million Restricted Funds



## Proposed Discretionary Spending CEC 15\*

Schools were allocated discretionary Contracts for Excellence funds. Schools have proposed to spend those funds as follows:

C4E Program Area	Amount Budgeted	% Total
Class Size Reduction	\$1,963,460	37.98%
Full-Day Pre-K	\$12,430	0.24%
Middle School and High School Restructuring	\$ -	0.00%
Model Programs for ELLs	\$1,390,653	26.90%
Teacher and Principal Quality Initiatives	\$90,223	1.75%
Time on Task	\$1,712,792	33.13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,169,558</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Comprehensive information about these proposed allocations – including school-level program strategies and performance targets - are available online at:

<https://infohub.nyced.org/reports-and-policies/citywide-information-and-data/contracts-for-excellence>

*\*Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.*

*\*All proposed allocations described in this plan are preliminary and contingent on further analysis of school-based conditions.*

## School Year 20-21 C4E Plan: All Funds By Program Strategy – CEC 15\*

	Citywide Total	CEC15 Total	CEC15% Total	
Class Size Reduction	Maintain Class Size	\$9,430,331	\$ 236,004	5.17%
	Maintain PTR	\$2,517,000	\$ 12,130	0.27%
	Minimize Class Size Growth	\$1,040,104	\$ 21,693	0.47%
	Reduced Class Size	\$103,726,607	\$3,441,597	75.33%
	Reduced PTR	\$25,606,463	\$ 857,037	18.76%
	Team Teaching Strategies**	\$58,111,472	\$2,366,962	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$142,320,505</b>	<b>\$4,568,461</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Time on Task	Before & After School	\$4,797,254	\$ 174,733	10.20%
	Dedicated Instruction	\$69,329,677	\$1,538,059	89.80%
	Individualized Tutoring	\$444,098	\$ -	0.00%
	Summer School	\$520,748	\$ -	0.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,091,777</b>	<b>\$1,712,792</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Teacher and Principal Quality Initiatives	Leadership Coaches	\$1,657,618	\$ -	0.00%
	Mentoring for New Staff	\$1,592,658	\$ -	0.00%
	Recruit & Retain HQT	\$114,709	\$ -	0.00%
	Teacher Coaches	\$14,708,567	\$ 90,223	100.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,073,552</b>	<b>\$90,223</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\*All proposed allocations described in this plan are preliminary and contingent on further analysis of school-based conditions.

\*Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

\*\* Targeted allocations (CTT and ASD Classrooms) + school-level discretionary allocations – Not included in total sum.

## 20-21 C4E Plan: All Funds By Program Strategy – CEC 15\*

		Citywide Total	CEC15Total	CEC15% Total
<b>Middle &amp; High School Restructuring</b>	MSHS Instruct Changes	\$1,117,250	\$ -	0.00%
	MSHS Struct Changes	\$1,408,838	\$ -	0.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,526,088</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

<b>Full-Day Pre-K</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,156,466</b>	<b>\$706,038</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
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<b>Model Programs for ELLs</b>	ELL Innovative Programs	\$37,347,439	\$1,390,653	100.00%
	ELL Parent Involvement	\$54,468	\$ -	0.00%
	ELL Teacher Recruitment	\$386,333	\$ -	0.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,788,240</b>	<b>\$1,390,653</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\*Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

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## Class Size as an Allowable Activity During the 2020 – 2021 School Year

For the 2020-2021 school year, the DOE will continue its efforts to reduce class size, one of the allowable activities for which Contracts for Excellence funds may be spent pursuant to the C4E legislation, in the following ways:

- For the 2020-2021 school year, NYCDOE will continue to focus on the lowest performing schools in its class size reduction efforts.

The New York State Commissioner of Education has determined that the five-year C4E Class Size Plan created in 2007, when the C4E legislation was issued, is no longer in effect.

# Public Comment

We will take public feedback into account in the coming months as we continue to develop a citywide Contracts for Excellence plan.

The deadline for submitting public comments will be March 23, 2021.

The public may comment on any aspect of the plan, including:

- How schools are planning to spend their discretionary funds within the six allowable program areas
- How the DOE is allocating targeted Contract funds to schools
- The public comment process

Educators, parents, and all other members of the New York City community with feedback should e-mail us at [ContractsForExcellence@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ContractsForExcellence@schools.nyc.gov)