

# INTRODUCTION TO: NEW YORK CITY INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

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# NYC Independent Budget Office (IBO) Mission

- IBO's primary responsibility is to provide nonpartisan information about the city budget and tax revenues. This ranges from reviewing agency spending to more in-depth considerations of program costs, historical trends, tax burdens, debt, or capital finances.
- IBO has 4 main types of publications

New York City Independent Budget Office


**Focus On:  
The Preliminary Budget**

March 2019

**Overview: An Analysis of the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for 2020 and Financial Plan**

When the Mayor presented his Preliminary Budget in February, he painted a picture of looming threats to the city's budget. The de Blasio Administration anticipates that slower economic growth at both the national and local levels will lead to slower growth in tax revenue than the city has experienced in recent years. The expectation of slower growth and continued budget threats from Albany, which is facing sizable budget gaps, prompted the de Blasio Administration to resume a program of mandatory savings actions for most agencies, yet the announced target of \$750 million is fairly modest relative to the size of the total budget. There is little in the way of

Using IBO's estimates of city revenues and expenses under the Mayor's budget program, we project that the budget for 2019 and 2020 will total \$92.3 billion, respectively (years are fiscal years).



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Testimony of Ronnie Lowenstein  
Director, New York City Independent Budget Office  
To the New York City Council Finance Division  
On the Mayor's Executive Budget for 2019 and Financial Plan

New York City Independent Budget Office

**Schools Brief**

February 2019

**Admissions Overhaul:  
Simulating the Outcome Under the Mayor's Plan For Admissions to the City's Specialized High Schools**

Summary

One of the most contentious issues facing New York City's public schools is the debate around school admissions process for the city's eight specialized high schools. The Specialized High School Admissions Test and its ranking in the top 7 percent of their middle school and top scores on the state's assessment tests) had been in place for t would the demographics and level of academic achievement of e specialized high schools have been?

coming ninth grade class in 2017-2018 would have looked like. ed, the composition of the specialized high schools will depend house to attend. Among our findings:

**How Much Funding Is Allocated to the Community Schools Program and for Which Services?**

One of Mayor de Blasio's earliest education initiatives sought to establish 100 "community schools" that provide a mix of academic and other supports to students and their families through partnerships with community-based organizations. By August 2018 there were more than 200 community schools.

Using data from the education department's School Funding Transparency Form, IBO determined how many schools provide community school support services, what the different funding sources are, and how much funding is provided for the specific services. There are six categories of service: academic enrichment, health, mental health/counseling, and dental care; after school/extended day programs; nutrition services; legal services; and all other services.

- In total, 239 schools—out of the city's 1,531 traditional public schools—benefit from \$106.6 million in state, local, and federal funding to provide community school services this school year. These schools are receiving an average of \$830,900, with allocations ranging from a minimum of about \$63,300 to a maximum of nearly \$5.9 million per school. These amounts include funds for health insurance and other fringe benefit costs that are traditionally budgeted centrally within the Department of Education, and pensions, which are typically budgeted outside of the Department of Education budget.
- Most schools rely on funds from a combination of sources to provide community school services. But this year 23 schools are relying solely on federal funds, receiving an average of \$275,400. Another 17 schools are relying solely on funds from the state's Foundation Aid Community School Set Aside. Each of these 17 schools is receiving \$150,000.

**Funding Largely From State & City, School Year 2018-2019**

Dollars in millions

- Foundation Aid Set Aside
- Other State and Local
- Federal



**Most Community School Funding Allocated for Academic Services, School Year 2018-2019**

- \$118.0 million Enriched Academic Services
- \$23.3 million All Other
- \$38.9 million After School/Extended Day
- \$18.4 million Health, Mental Health, Counseling, Dental Care

NOTE: Nutrition and legal services are not included in the graph because no school allocated funding for these services.

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# Key Resources IBO Provides

- On our main website: [www.ibo.nyc.ny.us](http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us)

## Featured Resources



**NEW YORK CITY  
BY THE NUMBERS**



**BUDGET OPTIONS  
FOR NEW YORK CITY**



**PUBLIC SCHOOL  
INDICATORS**



**NEW YORK CITY  
FISCAL HISTORY**



**BUDGET  
BASICS**

# Process for Handling Requests

- Routine requests: simpler, require relatively little analysis
- Lengthier requests:
  - From elected officials, we ask for requests in writing
  - IBO shares results with the requester first. Requester has the right to associate or disassociate him/herself with the analysis.
  - IBO will publish the work regardless
    - If the requester wishes to be acknowledged, it will generally be published as a letter/memo
    - If the requester chooses to remain anonymous, IBO will keep that information confidential

# Organization of IBO

- 37 employees
- 4 teams that cover specific city agencies or tax policy
  - Economics
  - Social and Community Services
  - Housing, Environment, and Infrastructure
  - Education

# IBO's Expanded Responsibilities in Education: June 2009

- Prior to June 2009: Education work focused on expense and capital budget (Department of Education and School Construction Authority)
- When Mayoral Control was extended in June 2009, IBO was tasked with increased responsibilities for analyzing and understanding policies and student outcomes
- Broader mandate for access to Department of Education data, beyond budget
- Education team:
  - 1 Database manager
  - 2 members focused on budget issues
  - 5 members focused on longer-term research questions

# Examples of Most Recent Education Publications: Funding and Spending

- How Much Funding Is Allocated to the Community Schools Program and for Which Services?
- Testimony on the School Construction Authority's Proposed Five-Year Capital Plan for 2020-2024
- Testimony to the New York City Council Education Committee at the Oversight Hearing on Fair Student Funding
  - How Much More Would It Have Cost to Fully Fund Fair Student Funding for the City's Schools Last Year?
- Tracking Title I funding over ten years—More Schools Eligible, Less Aid Available: Federal Support Shrinks for City Schools With Many Low-Income Students

## Examples of Most Recent Education Publications: Student Outcomes & Teacher and Student Demographics

- Admissions Overhaul: Simulating the Outcome Under the Mayor's Plan For Admissions to the City's Specialized High Schools
- When Students of Different Ethnicities Are Suspended For the Same Infraction Is the Average Length of Their Suspension the Same?
- Are Some Students With Disabilities More Likely to Receive a Recommendation for a Paraprofessional?
- Middle School Concentration: Some Schools Had a Large Share of Students From Lower-Income & Education, High-Crime Neighborhoods



# Education Indicators – Student Demographics

- **Student Demographics**

- Data Notes and Glossary**

- Information on data sources and definition of terms.

- Section 1. A Snapshot of Student Demographics**

- Provides data on student demographics such as the number, birthplace, and most common home languages of traditional public and charter school students.

- Section 2. School Enrollment Trends**

- Provides data on both traditional public and charter school enrollment trends.

- Section 3. Comparing Characteristics of Traditional Public School Students and Charter School Students**

- Provides data on race and ethnicity, disability status, and English Language Learner status of traditional public and charter school students. Also includes data on students in temporary housing.

# Education Indicators – Student Achievement

- **Student Achievement**

- **Section 1. Student Attendance and Grades 3-8 Academic Performance**

- Provides data on the attendances rates of traditional public school students, as well as grades 3-8 standardized test results for both traditional public and charter school students.

- **Section 2. Grades 3-8 Academic Performance by Charter Network Affiliation**

- Provides the grades 3-8 standardized assessment median scores by charter network affiliation.

- **Section 3. Regents Exam Performance**

- Provides data on Regents Exam performance for traditional public school students.

# Education Indicators – Resources

- **Resources**

- **Data Notes and Glossary**

- Information on data sources and definition of terms.

- **Section 1. Budget**

- Provides data on Department of Education program budget and funding sources, and per pupil spending.

- **Section 2. Principals**

- Provides data on Traditional Public School principals' demographics, work history, training, and school characteristics.

- **Section 3. Teachers**

- Provides data on Traditional Public School teachers' demographics, work history, training, and school characteristics.

- **Section 4. Buildings and Schools**

- Provides data on the number and utilization rates of buildings and schools. Data includes Traditional Public Schools, and Charter Schools located in DOE space.

- **Section 5. Specialized Facilities**

- Provides data on the share of schools with science rooms and art rooms. Data includes Traditional Public Schools, and Charter Schools located in DOE space.

# Education Indicators – Academic Profiles of Middle and High Schools

- **Academic Profiles of Middle and High Schools**

## **Data Notes and Glossary**

Information on data sources and definition of terms.

## **Section 1. Middle Schools**

Provides data on advanced courses or Regents exams taken at traditional public middle schools serving grades 6-8.

## **Section 2. High Schools**

Provides data on Advanced Placement exams offered and taken at traditional public high schools, as well as the average number of science and art subjects available.

# How Can You Reach Us?

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