



**THE STATE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT**

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Enhancing Supports & Services for Postsecondary Success of Students with Disabilities

THE ISSUE:

In May 2017, the Department's Advisory Council on Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities recommended, and the Board of Regents adopted, a proposal to work with representatives from the higher education sectors to develop a funding proposal that would provide much needed enhanced supports and services to our over 61,000 identified students with disabilities in New York State degree granting colleges and universities to ensure that all of our students can succeed in their postsecondary education. Since May, the Department has been engaged in collaborative efforts to establish a legislative framework advocating for critical new funding that would supplement, not supplant, any other federal, state or local funding in existence for such purposes.

Funding would be allocated by the Department, in a proportionate manner by each identified student with disability per sector to SUNY, CUNY, and our NYS degree granting independent and proprietary colleges, pursuant to a plan that outlines how the funding would be spent, for one or more of the following purposes:

- to supplement funding for supports and accommodations of students with disabilities;
- to support summer college preparation programs to assist individuals with disabilities transition to college, and prepare them to navigate campus facilities and systems;
- to provide full and part-time faculty and staff with disability training; and
- to improve the identification process of individuals with disabilities and enhance data collection capabilities.

2018-19 Budget Request – \$15 million in new state funding

Using the most recent 2016-17 academic year data collected by the Department, this \$15 million in funding would be divided as follows:

- SUNY with **38%** of postsecondary students with disabilities would receive **\$5.7 million**;
- CUNY with **16%** of postsecondary students with disabilities would receive **\$2.4 million**;
- NYS Independent Colleges with **44%** of postsecondary students with disabilities would receive **\$6.6 million**; and
- NYS Proprietary Colleges with **2%** of postsecondary students with disabilities would receive **\$300,000**.