



The State University
of New York

2011 SUNY BUDGET REQUEST

Overview

This year's Executive Budget for the SUNY system represents a cut of \$ 362.3 million from the 2010-11 budget. SUNY entered this fiscal year having been cut **\$1.1 billion** over the past three years. This year's proposed reductions include:

\$150 million to State Operated and Statutory Campuses (for a total of \$768.5 since 2008)

\$33.2 million to Community Colleges (for a total of \$89.2 million since 2008)

\$179.1 million to Hospitals (for a total of \$650.2 million since 2008)

If this budget is enacted as is, the total amount of cuts across SUNY since 2008 equals \$1.5 billion.

Revenue

On behalf of SUNY's 468, 000 students, 88,000 faculty and staff and all of our constituents, SUNY is asking the Legislature to consider restoring these proposed reductions. At the very least, the time is right to begin a meaningful dialog regarding maintenance of effort.

For tuition, SUNY is seeking a 5 year plan beginning in the 2012 academic year which would recognize the reality of our tuition environment. SUNY needs a tuition policy that is fair, predictable, and responsible.

Fair because it protects access and affordability.

Predictable because it allows students and families to plan over a 5-year period.

Responsible because all of it is invested in completion.

At \$4,970 per year at our four-year institutions, SUNY's tuition is among the lowest in the nation. Thanks to the Tuition Assistance Program—TAP—any New York State resident who seeks a SUNY education will not be denied because of diminished financial means. However, the means by which we have achieved this number have been anything but fair.

SUNY needs a tuition policy that is fair because it is predictable. Our students and their families need to be able to plan for the cost of their college education and not worry about the "tuition roulette" they have come to fear each time the state has to deal with budget deficits. Further, our campuses need a revenue source that they can rely on in order to invest.

Establishing a five year tuition plan, similar to the successful cycle you have provided for our capital planning, will allow us to answer these issues.

Procurement

SUNY supports Governor's call for procurement reform.

SUNY needs to cut the red tape surrounding the procurement of goods. If our hospitals cannot quickly purchase the life-saving tools they need, if our campuses cannot provide to our students in a timely manner the educational tools they need, then we simply cannot do our jobs efficiently. The hurdles we face in the procurement of goods forces us to spend more tax-payer dollars and to fall behind on our promise of excellence to New Yorkers. We look forward to working with our union partners to reach an agreement on how to best secure these reforms.

Public Private Partnerships

SUNY supports Governor Cuomo's plan to allow our 64 campuses to more easily enter into public-private partnerships.

These reforms will advance our core mission and values, while at the same time protect collective-bargaining rights. We must attract the interests of the private sector, while simultaneously protecting the interests of the public, allowing us to generate additional revenue and to create the jobs our state so desperately needs. We look forward to working with our union partners to reach an agreement on how to best secure these reforms.

February 14, 2011

