



2023-2024

SOME FACTS ABOUT YONKERS' 29,079 STUDENTS

24,390 Prekindergarten to Grade Twelve Students in 39 district schools

- Prekindergarten ages 3 & 4 - 1,406
- Kindergarten to grade 12 - 22,984

- 15,094 Hispanic (62%)
- 3,844 African American/Black (16%)
- 5,452 White, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian, Multi-Racial (22%)
- 73% Economically Disadvantaged
- 19% Students with Disabilities (SWD)
- 13% Multilingual Learners (MLL)
- 32% of in-district kindergarten students have no formal prekindergarten experience

5,927 Students Served by the District have an Individual Education Plan (IEP)

- 4,676 students with disabilities are placed in District schools
 - 87% are children of color
 - 67% are male
 - 642 are Twice Exceptional - SWD & MLL
 - 60 are Displaced students
- 1,251 students with disabilities receive services in other capacities:
 - 549 are placed in Out-of-District schools
 - 37 are on Home and Hospital, awaiting Out-of-District placements
 - 368 pre-school students are in Community Based Organizations or out-of-district placements
 - 297 are parentally placed and transportation only students with disabilities

- 4,689 Yonkers Charter Schools - 814 students
 - Students Attend: City of Yonkers Parochial/Private Schools - 3,875 students
- These students receive transportation, textbooks, library resources, nursing services, pupil support services, Title I, II, III and IV funds and special education services.

02/09/2023

FISCAL CHALLENGE FOR 2023-2024 - \$33 MILLION CONSOLIDATED BUDGET GAP SHORTFALL

Yonkers demonstrates a commitment to educate ALL students, but the reality is that our ongoing budget situation hampers our ability to sustain the current levels of student success. Why?

- The ever-present structural budget constraints that have for decades continue to exacerbate Yonkers ability to sustain essential equitable educational programs – art, music, physical education, library, social-emotional support – and, most importantly personnel – teachers, school counselors, psychologists, social workers, school safety officer.
- Annually, Yonkers must assume a revenue shortfall resulting from the previous year's one-shot appropriations, which always are essential student needs and appreciated.
- Yonkers, the 4th largest school district, ranks 272 out of 731 school districts in the state for Foundation Aid per Total Aidable Pupil Units.

Thank you for the progress made towards achieving equity and sustainable funding for Yonkers through Foundational Aid. This is the first step. Many more steps large and small must follow for the sake of our children, our economy and the future.

THE 2024 CHALLENGE – POST ARPA SHORTFALL – WE MUST BE PREPARED! Where Yonkers is today and why...

- 2020-2021** Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I) & Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) \$10.5 million to reinstate 53 Full Time Staff: School Counselors, Social Workers & Psychologists
NYS Pandemic Adjustment REDUCED YPS funding by \$10.5 M - NET -\$0-
- 2021-2022** \$15.6 Million Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (ESSER II - CRRSA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
ESSER II - CRRSA: 66.70 Full Time Staff mostly rolled-over from CARES Act
ESSER II - CRRSA: 38 Full Time Staff New Positions
ARPA: 125 Full Time Staff New Positions
TOTAL 229.70 FULL TIME STAFF
- 2022-2023** \$30.2 Million **ARPA:** 198.20 Full Time Staff rolled-over
ESSER II - CRRSA: 22.90 Full Time Staff rolled-over
TOTAL 221.10 FULL TIME STAFF
- 2023-2024** \$31.4 Million **ARPA:** 221.10 Full Time Staff rolled-over
TOTAL 221.10 FULL TIME STAFF
- 2024-2025** \$33.4 Million **ADDITIONAL FUNDING NEEDED**
TOTAL 221.10 FULL TIME STAFF



YONKERS OFFERS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION SOLUTIONS FOR 2023-2024 AND IN THE FUTURE

During the last 10 years Yonkers, New York's 3rd largest city, has demonstrated that with commitment, resiliency, and collaboration a model urban community can be created with excellence in government and quality education.

The school district with its many challenges has shown that ALL students' needs can be met, children can reach their potential and academic success is achievable. Over the past 7 years, Yonkers has had the highest graduation rate of the Big 5 City school districts with more than a 90% graduation rate for the last 3 years. This was achieved because we say NO to a deficiency model. Yonkers assumes that our students are brilliant and ready to achieve, we maintain high expectations for students, educators and staff, and provide equity and opportunities to enrich and accelerate academic and social emotional learning. Most importantly, we received the right investments from our elected officials that enabled a fiscally responsible education spending plan focused on putting resources where they are most impactful — the classrooms — educators, pupil support services, safety and security.

Today, Yonkers Public Schools is a model urban district, with a balanced budget and a strategic plan that requires all stakeholders to work collaboratively to meet the academic and social emotional needs of students. The City of Yonkers, the State of New York, and the federal government's ARP-ESSER funding have made the right investments in our schools; they must be credited for the success of our students.

For decades, Yonkers Public Schools has relied on non-recurrent revenue to sustain essential programs, for which we are immensely grateful. Unfortunately, it was not enough to provide and sustain the equitable essential programs and services that our students receive today, which enables them to thrive. **This trajectory requires actions from our elected officials which provide recurring revenue for these equitable essential programs and services.**

CONSIDER THESE VIABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FOUNDATION AID

Above the Governor's Proposal, increase Yonkers' Foundation Aid by \$40 million dollars over the course of the next 2 fiscal years guaranteeing that the total ARPA appropriation becomes recurrent revenue.

FOUNDATION AID SET ASIDES

Eliminate all unnecessary Foundation Aid set asides such as Community Schools and High Impact Tutoring. Children's needs are significantly different in every community. Yonkers' 90% high school graduation rate proves we know that each student's essential needs must drive our work.

HOST COMMUNITY CASINO APPROPRIATION

Increase the Yonkers Public Schools host community casino appropriation by \$12 million dollars over the course of the next 2 fiscal years, for a total of \$31.6 million annually.

TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT

Cost of student pupil transportation has increased by \$14 million dollars. Increase to 80% the reimbursement rate.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Appropriate an additional \$10 million to Yonkers to fully fund Universal Prekindergarten. Stop treating it as expense-based aid depending on enrollment. For urban communities, the uneven flow in enrollment does not change the expense.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Make a \$20 million dollar investment to Yonkers for special education services due to the increase in the number of students being identified and the complexity of services they require.

MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

Invest an additional \$10 million dollars for services to Yonkers annual increase of approximately 400 English language learners/multilingual learners, especially to support certified staff to provide mandated services.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

Appropriate an additional \$5 million dollars to develop safety initiatives that address community violence; hire additional school safety officers and increase training, as well as establish youth-based programs in schools and work in collaboration with the police and the courts.

ADDRESS THE TEACHER SHORTAGE CRISIS

Appropriate an additional \$3 million dollars for Yonkers to partner with post-secondary institutions to certify teachers in shortage areas identified by the district. Yonkers has successful models.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Appropriate an additional \$5 million dollars for Yonkers to further develop and create new Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs focusing on industry needs. Increase the per pupil appropriation that has been flat for over a decade at \$3,900 and include 9th grade students.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Increase Yonkers' Building Aid Ratio from 69.5% to 90% to address infrastructure upgrades needed for school buildings that average over 80 years old and 25% were built over 100 years ago. Yonkers 2020 Building Condition Survey indicates \$520 million is needed to principally address health and safety issues in schools across the district.



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