

**The Andrew Cuomo 25-Point
Education Plan for NYC:
Access. Excellence. Innovation.**

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New York City is home to the largest and most diverse public school system in the United States—serving nearly a million students starting from K3-12 from diverse cultures, origins, and experiences. It is a system filled with extraordinary promise but also urgent challenges. Despite having the highest per-pupil spending in the nation, too many students are left behind due to fragmented services, inequitable access, and outdated systems that fail to meet the realities of our modern economy and the needs of families.

Summary of Policy Proposals, Challenges, and Why Experience Matters

Andrew Cuomo has said that after public safety, the Mayor of New York City has no higher calling than ensuring that students enrolled in the New York City school system receive a high-quality education. He believes that education is the single most powerful tool for economic and social mobility—and that the promise of education must be real for every child in every neighborhood. Throughout his career, he has fought for students and their families, especially those who were often left behind.

Andrew Cuomo's education vision for New York City is centered on transforming today's fragmented, siloed system into a fully integrated and seamless cradle-to-career pipeline. Under his plan, education will no longer be defined by disconnected stages—early childhood, K-12, college, and workforce training—but rather as a unified continuum where each phase prepares students for the next. From co-locating early childhood development and intervention services within district schools to building robust middle-to-high school career pathways, his strategy is designed to eliminate bureaucratic barriers, streamline services, and align educational outcomes with real-world opportunities.

To achieve this, Andrew Cuomo's plan will focus on data integration, academic innovation, service coordination, and workforce alignment—replacing the current patchwork of programs with a cohesive, student-centered system that expands opportunity, promotes upward mobility, and fuels New York City's economy with the best workforce in the nation.

This plan is built around three core promises that define what every student in New York City should expect from their education:

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- **Access.** Every student deserves access to high-quality early childhood education, rigorous K–12 instruction, mental health support, and clear pathways to college and careers.
- **Excellence.** Schools must be held to high standards and given the tools, talent, and resources to meet them. That means investing in great teachers, expanding evidence-based models like community schools and early college programs, reducing class sizes, and focusing on high quality modern curricula that couple academics with real-world skills.
- **Innovation.** New York City must lead in preparing students for the future. That requires aligning schools with high-growth sectors like green energy, AI, cybersecurity, and healthcare, and creating a truly unified education and workforce system that connects classrooms to career success.

This is a plan to fix the leaks in the system and build an integrated seamless system of education focused on student success.

Part A. Strengthening Early Childhood Education in New York City

- **Proposal 1.** Pioneer New Model to Co-Locate Early Childhood Development Services in Public Schools
- **Proposal 2.** Guarantee Universal, Full-Day Pre-K and 3-K Citywide
- **Proposal 3.** Put Every Child on a Path to College or Career with a Universal Savings Platform

Part B. Reimagining New York City Middle and High Schools

- **Proposal 4.** Launch a Mentorship and Career Exploration Program
- **Proposal 5.** Increase Dual Enrollment and Summer Bridge for Rising High Schoolers
- **Proposal 6.** Expand High-Impact Academic Support in Middle Schools
- **Proposal 7.** Establish the NYC Education Innovation Lab Network
- **Proposal 8.** Scale Early College, CTE, and Work-Based Learning Opportunities for Every High School Student
- **Proposal 9.** Build Seamless Transitions to Postsecondary Education by Establishing the College and Career Transition Corps

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Part C. Building a Cohesive Cradle to Career System by Scaling Proven Models to Improve Academic Achievement

- **Proposal 10.** Establish a Community School Development Fund to Expand Access to High Quality Community Schools
- **Proposal 11.** Work Toward Universal Afterschool Programs
- **Proposal 12.** Implementing the Class Size Reduction Law
- **Proposal 13.** Strengthen Mental Health Supports
- **Proposal 14.** Build a Unified Birth-to-Career Data and Accountability System
- **Proposal 15.** Preserve Mayoral Control
- **Proposal 16.** Support Diverse High-Impact School Models

Part D. Supporting Our Teachers, Because Great Teachers Make Successful Students

- **Proposal 17.** Invest in “Grow Your Own” Teacher and Education Leadership Pipeline
- **Proposal 18.** Expand the NYC Teaching Residency Program
- **Proposal 19.** Create the “Teach Where It Counts” Incentive Fund
- **Proposal 20.** Expand Educator Training and Professional Development—With a Focus on Reading and Math Curricula Implementation and Embedding Career Pathways into Core Academics

Part E. Reimagining and Integrating Postsecondary and Workforce Systems

- **Proposal 21.** Launch the \$100M High-Demand Jobs Accelerator Program
- **Proposal 22.** Launch the “Learn and Earn Network”: Building School-to-Work Pipelines with Employers
- **Proposal 23.** Create a System of Lifelong Learning for Adults
- **Proposal 24.** Aligning CUNY and DOE Career Pipelines by Creating a Pathways Coordination Council
- **Proposal 25.** Create 5,000 Additional Youth Apprenticeships by 2029

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Experience Matters:

A Career of Fighting for Students

Throughout his career in public service, Andrew Cuomo has played a pivotal role in investing in New York's education system, driving transformative change across the college-through-career pipeline. As Governor, Andrew Cuomo made historic investment in education—increasing education aid by nearly 45%, with a deliberate focus on directing the greatest support to the districts with the highest need.

As Governor, Andrew Cuomo played a foundational role in expanding early childhood education in New York State—well before the widely publicized implementation of universal Pre-K in New York City. In 2013, Governor Cuomo proposed and secured funding for a statewide expansion of full-day pre-kindergarten programs targeted at the state's highest-need students, marking a major shift from the prevailing half-day models. This initiative focused on school districts with the greatest poverty and educational disparities and required the use of effective, research-based learning models tied to quality and performance standards.

In 2014, Governor Cuomo took this a step further, proposing and delivering a statewide Universal Full-Day Pre-K initiative to ensure that every four-year-old had access to full-day Pre-K. Recognizing the critical benefits of even earlier intervention, Cuomo became the first state leader to fund full-day Pre-K for three-year-olds in 2015, expanding access for the youngest learners, especially in high-need communities. This occurred two years before New York City's 3-K initiative was announced in 2017, reinforcing Cuomo's leadership on early childhood education. These efforts were supported by robust investments in classroom infrastructure, teacher training, and program quality, laying the groundwork for one of the most expansive early education systems in the country.

Governor Andrew Cuomo proposed and championed the New York State Smart Schools Bond Act—a \$2 billion investment to modernize the state's educational infrastructure to stay up with innovation and technology. This initiative aimed to bridge the digital divide and equip students with the tools necessary for success in a rapidly evolving, technology-driven world. The proposal swiftly gained legislative approval, and voters overwhelmingly approved a measure allowing the state to issue bonds to fund a range of educational enhancements. This included upgrading classroom technology, expanding high-speed internet access, constructing new pre-kindergarten classrooms, replacing temporary classroom structures, and installing advanced security systems in schools.

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Governor Andrew Cuomo was a key driver behind the expansion of the community schools' model across New York State, grounded in the understanding that academic achievement is deeply influenced by a child's overall well-being. Community schools serve as a community hub for a wide array of wraparound services, including on-site mental health counseling, dental and vision care, food pantries, after-school enrichment, mentoring, and strong family engagement programming. In 2016, Cuomo launched the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI) and committed significant state funding to community schools as a core strategy to combat intergenerational poverty and improve educational outcomes. That same year, he announced a \$100 million investment to expand community schools.

Andrew Cuomo's Master Teacher Program, launched in 2013, was designed to recognize and support New York State's most exceptional STEM teachers—those who demonstrate a deep commitment to professional growth, mentorship, and student achievement. Modeled after the National Science Foundation's Master Teacher framework, the program aimed to strengthen the state's K–12 pipeline in science, technology, engineering, and math by investing in teacher excellence. Selected Master Teachers receive an annual stipend, participate in ongoing professional development, and serve as mentors to early-career educators. By creating a statewide network of highly skilled teachers committed to collaboration and innovation in the classroom, Governor Cuomo's initiative elevated the status of teaching as a profession while addressing the growing demand for STEM competency in the 21st-century workforce. Over the years, the program expanded to include hundreds of educators across every region of the state, fostering academic rigor and leadership in some of New York's highest-need schools.

Governor Andrew Cuomo was a national leader in advancing innovative secondary-postsecondary partnerships aimed at closing skills gaps and promoting long-term economic mobility, particularly for students from underserved communities. A hallmark of this effort was his statewide expansion of the Early College High Schools, particularly the P-TECH model (Pathways in Technology Early College High School)—an education model that blends high school, college, and career training in a seamless six-year program.

Students graduate with both a New York State high school diploma and a no-cost associate degree in high-demand fields such as information technology, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and engineering. The model includes significant involvement from industry partners, who offer mentorships, workplace experiences, and often guarantee job interviews upon graduation. In 2013, Governor Cuomo committed state funding to creating one of the most robust statewide P-TECH networks in the nation.

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At the postsecondary level, Cuomo transformed access to public higher education through the creation of the Excelsior Scholarship, the first tuition-free college program of its kind in the nation. It made CUNY and SUNY tuition-free for middle-class families earning up to \$125,000 per year, helping thousands of students avoid debt and access opportunity. He also protected and strengthened the state's longstanding Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), ensuring it remained one of the most robust need-based aid programs in the country. Under his leadership, TAP eligibility was expanded to include part-time students and undocumented students through the Jose Peralta DREAM Act, reflecting a broader commitment to equity in higher education. Cuomo paired these initiatives with historic capital investments in SUNY and CUNY campuses—totaling over \$8 billion—to modernize outdated facilities, expand STEM labs, and improve student housing and learning environments.

As Attorney General, Andrew Cuomo authored the SLATE Act (Student Lending, Accountability, Transparency, and Enforcement) as part of his sweeping investigation into corrupt practices in the student loan industry. His office uncovered widespread conflicts of interest, including colleges steering students to “preferred lenders” in exchange for financial incentives like payments, stock options, and lavish trips. The SLATE Act banned revenue-sharing agreements between lenders and colleges, prohibit gifts to financial aid officers, require full disclosure of financial ties, ensure preferred lender lists were based on merit, and establish enforcement mechanisms to penalize violations. The SLATE Act had national impact, prompting dozens of universities and lenders to reform their practices and influencing provisions in the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.

Together, these reforms reflect Cuomo's comprehensive approach: ensuring access from early education through college, integrating support services into schools, and aligning education with workforce demands to help more New Yorkers succeed.

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The Challenges Ahead: The State of Education in New York City

New York City's public school system—the largest in the nation—serves over 900,000 students across 1,596 schools. When including 3-K and Pre-K programs, total enrollment exceeds one million. [1]

Yet, the system confronts a range of urgent and persistent challenges that demand focused, long-term solutions. New York State invests more in education than any other state in the nation. In the 2023–24 academic year, with State School Aid of \$34.5 billion, local school districts spent approximately \$89 billion on education, with average per-pupil spending exceeding \$36,000—by far the highest in the country. [2] Average per-pupil spending in New York City currently exceeds \$40,000. [3]

The New York City school system is a massive enterprise, with an operating budget of \$42.2 billion and additional capital spending of \$4.2 billion contemplated by the FY26 Executive Budget. The Department of Education includes 150,510 employees, making it by far the largest New York City agency. The cost of providing high quality education in New York City with its regional cost differences and large population of high need students is immense, but it is also the case that an enterprise of this size creates opportunities for efficiencies and redeployment of resources to better educate our students.

The 25 Proposals in Andrew Cuomo's plan describes ways that these resources could be optimally employed. Nonetheless, despite New York City's considerable investments in education, this investment has not translated into improved student outcomes. Recent data from the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress underscore the challenges facing New York City's education system. In fourth grade, 33% of students achieved proficiency in mathematics, trailing both the state average of 39% and the national average of 37%. Reading proficiency for NYC fourth graders stood at 28%, compared to the national average of 31%. Eighth-grade students in NYC showed 23% proficiency in math, below the national average of 28%, while reading proficiency was only 29%, consistent with the national average. [4]

[1] See NYC Public Schools Enrollment (2023–24). "NYSED Data Site", New York State Education Department, 2024, <https://data.nysed.gov/enrollment.php?instid=7889678368>.

[2] Marcus, Stevan. Highest Costs, Middling Marks: New York School Spending and Results. Citizens Budget Commission, Jan. 2025, https://cbcny.org/sites/default/files/media/files/CBCREPORT_NYS-School-Spending_01172025.pdf.

[3] New York City Office of Management and Budget. The City of New York Executive Budget Fiscal Year 2026. May 2025, p. 93 <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/omb/downloads/pdf/exec25/mm5-25.pdf>.

[4] National Center for Education Statistics. "District Profile: New York City Public Schools." The Nation's Report Card, U.S. Department of Education, 2024, https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/districtprofile/overview/XN?sfj=NL&chort=1&sub=MAT&sj=XN&st=MN&year=2024R3&cti=PgTab_OT.

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These figures underscore the challenges faced by New York City's public school system in meeting educational benchmarks, particularly in mathematics. The data suggest a need for targeted interventions to address these proficiency gaps and support student achievement. Equity gaps further compound the crisis, where students of color are disproportionately represented among those scoring at the lowest achievement levels. [5] While pandemic-related learning loss has affected students nationwide, the persistent underperformance in New York City—despite the nation's highest funding—demands a results-driven strategy to ensure every student can succeed.

Driving many of these challenges is New York City's persistent dropout crisis and rising rates of chronic absenteeism, which affect hundreds of thousands of students each year—particularly in under-resourced schools. A 2025 analysis by the Manhattan Institute revealed that nearly 35% of New York City public school students—approximately 300,000 children—were chronically absent in the 2023–24 school year, defined as missing at least 10% of school days. [6] This marks a significant rise from the pre-pandemic rate of 26.5% in 2019. The report found that absenteeism was especially severe in middle and high school grades, where rates exceeded 40% in some cases. Demographically, the burden of chronic absenteeism falls disproportionately on Black and Hispanic students, as well as those living in low-income neighborhoods. In certain districts, over half of students in grades 9 through 12 were chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism undermines academic progress, widens achievement gaps, and threatens the city's broader efforts to improve educational outcomes.

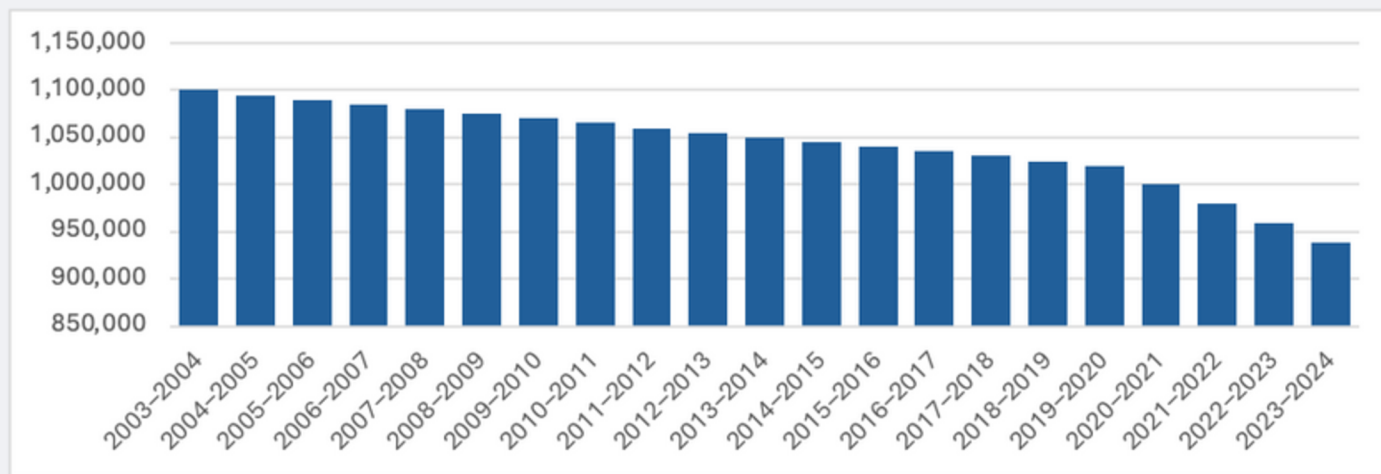
At the same time, enrollment across all NYC schools has declined by nearly 15% over the past two decades, driven by a combination of demographic changes and family outmigration. This enrollment decline has far-reaching consequences. New York City's public school system is producing fewer graduates despite the need for a skilled and educated workforce to meet the demands of today's economy, especially in areas like technology, healthcare, and the skilled trades.

[5] Education Trust–New York. "New NAEP Data Reveals Crisis in New York Schools with Persistent Gaps for Black and Latinx Students." The Education Trust–New York, Jan. 30, 2025, <https://newyork.edtrust.org/edtrust-new-york-new-naep-data-reveals-crisis-in-new-york-schools-with-persistent-gaps-for-black-and-latinx-students/>.

[6] Egorov, Danyela Souza. "Chronic Absenteeism Is Hampering School Improvement Efforts in New York City: What Can Be Done About It?" Manhattan Institute, Mar. 6, 2025, <https://manhattan.institute/article/chronic-absenteeism-hampering-school-improvement-efforts-new-york-city>.

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Chart 1. K-12 Enrollment in New York City Schools [7]



Declining enrollment, rising absenteeism, and stagnant outcomes together threaten the city’s long-term competitiveness, equity goals, and efforts to build a pipeline of homegrown talent. New York City’s education system is one of the most expensive in the nation, yet it leaves far too many students behind. A comprehensive plan is needed to reverse these trends and provide every student—regardless of background—with a meaningful pathway to economic mobility and opportunity.

Fixing the Leaky Education System

New York City’s education system is leaking talent, access, and opportunity at every stage—from early childhood through high school graduation. Despite the highest per-pupil spending in the nation, far too many students fall through the cracks due to ongoing structural inequities, fragmented services and programs, and outdated approaches. We must stop patching holes and instead build a seamless, integrated pipeline that supports every student from birth to adulthood. As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will lead a comprehensive transformation of education, focusing on three foundational pillars: expanding access, advancing excellence, and driving innovation and workforce readiness.

[7] Analysis of New York State Education Department and includes all schools. “Enrollment Data Archive (2011-2023).” Information and Reporting Services, <https://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/statistics/enroll-n-staff/ArchiveEnrollmentData.html>.
New York State Education Department. “Enrollment Data Archive (1994-2011).” Information and Reporting Services, Sept. 7, 2023, <https://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/statistics/enroll-n-staff/ArchiveEnrollmentData1994-2011.html>

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Part A. Strengthening Early Childhood Education in New York City

Early childhood is a critical period of human development. Decades of research have confirmed that the foundation for lifelong learning, health, and economic success is built during the first five years of life. [8] New York City has made historic strides in expanding early childhood access—most notably with Universal Pre-K and 3-K for All. Yet despite this progress, the city’s early childhood education and early childhood intervention (ECI) systems remain fragmented, underfunded in key areas, and inequitable in access and quality. The result is missed opportunities for thousands of children—especially those with developmental delays, disabilities, or living in poverty.

New York City’s early childhood system is split across multiple agencies and funding streams—including the Department of Education (DOE), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS). This creates duplication, administrative delays, and inconsistent coordination between early intervention (birth to three), preschool special education, and general Pre-K services. A December 2024 audit by the New York State Comptroller found failures in delivering preschool special education services, revealing more than 80% of school districts surveyed maintained waitlists, and over half of them had students waiting for services they were legally entitled to receive. [9] This is in large part due to staffing shortages, service delays, and coordination issues across agencies. Children often wait months for evaluations or services, losing critical developmental windows.

While Pre-K for All has reached near-universal access for 4-year-olds, significant disparities remain in quality, location, and access—particularly in low-income and immigrant communities. The city has also struggled to fully scale up 3-K for All, with enrollment falling short of universal targets. In 2023, the New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) reported that around 60% of eligible 3-year-olds were enrolled in city-funded 3-K programs, with significant variation in enrollment rates across different boroughs and neighborhoods. [10]

[8] Gilkerson, Jill, et al. “Mapping the Early Language Environment Using All-Day Recordings and Automated Analysis.” *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, vol. 26, no. 2, May 2017, pp. 248–265. https://doi.org/10.1044/2016_AJSLP-15-0169.

[9] Office of the New York State Comptroller. Access to Preschool Special Education Services. Dec. 2024, <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/state-agencies/audits/pdf/sga-2025-23s1.pdf>.

[10] New York City Independent Budget Office. Testimony on Early Childhood Education. January 2023, <https://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/early-childhood-education-testimony-nys-senate-january-2023.pdf>.

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Proposal 1. Pioneer New Model to Co-Locate Early Childhood Development Services in Public Schools

Our education system has long operated on the assumption that a child's formal learning begins when they walk through the doors of Pre-K. But research—and reality—show that learning starts much earlier, from birth to age three. Despite this, our existing system artificially draws a hard line between early childhood development and formal education, creating bureaucratic silos that hinder continuity and equity.

The city currently maintains an expansive—but fragmented, insufficient, and underfunded—array of programs including Early Intervention (EI), Early Head Start, Head Start, preschool special education, and childhood development programs. These services are split across multiple agencies and facilities, often making it difficult for families to access the right supports at the right time. The result: service delays, missed developmental windows, and disjointed transitions that disproportionately affect low-income children, children of color, English learners, and children with disabilities.

As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will pioneer a co-location model that unifies early childhood services within public school buildings, beginning in the neighborhoods with the greatest need. Under this plan, schools will serve as centers of learning and development even before a child is technically a student—housing Early Head Start, Pre-K, preschool special education, and Early Intervention programs under one roof. This model will allow children to stay in one place as they grow, enable educators to share data and best practices, and give families a one-stop hub for education, health, and developmental support.

To support this transition, Andrew Cuomo will establish a dedicated Co-Location and Space Optimization Fund, which will provide grants to schools, non-profit service providers, and community-based providers to retrofit space, coordinate programming, build staffing plans, and establish sustainable seamless partnerships allow children to get the early interventions they need so they are prepared for Pre-K and beyond.

This initiative is a win-win-win: children benefit from seamless developmental and educational pathways; families gain easier access to services and earlier engagement in their child's learning; and schools see improved kindergarten readiness, academic outcomes, and long-term performance. It builds on Andrew Cuomo's record of expanding early childhood education and reflects his belief that learning begins at birth—making co-located services not just a facilities fix, but a systems-level solution for a more effective education system.

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Proposal 2. Guarantee Universal, Full-Day Pre-K and 3-K Citywide

Under Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York led the nation with the launch of Universal Pre-K, providing free, full-day early education to four-year-olds. He followed this success by initiating a leading 3-K program, setting the vision for universal access beginning at age three. As Mayor, he will work to guarantee every eligible three- and four-year-old a seat in a high-quality, full-day early childhood program, regardless of zip code or family income.

To achieve this, Andrew Cuomo will offer capital and operational support to trusted community-based providers and prioritize expansion in underserved neighborhoods. He will also streamline enrollment across city agencies, expand dual-language and inclusive classrooms, and strengthen quality standards through enhanced educator training and monitoring.

Proposal 3. Put Every Child on a Path to College or Career with a Universal Savings Platform

For too many New York City families, the cost of college or post-secondary workforce training remains out of reach. But programs like NYC Kids RISE have shown that early investment can change that trajectory. Even modest savings significantly increase the likelihood that a child will enroll in and complete college or a training program. As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will expand and strengthen this model—starting earlier, investing more meaningfully, and giving families the tools to plan for the future. He will dedicate up to \$20 million annually to support universal savings accounts, milestone incentives, and wraparound family supports. Financial literacy education will begin during the child's early education.

This effort will be built on strong public-private partnerships. Employers and institutions benefiting will be invited to co-invest—by matching family contributions, funding milestone rewards, or making neighborhood-based deposits. This shared approach ensures collective responsibility for preparing the next generation.

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Part B. Reimagining New York City Middle and High Schools

New York City's middle schools are a critical—yet often overlooked—link in the educational pipeline. Middle schools sit at the fulcrum of student development, bridging the foundational learning of elementary school with the more specialized and high-stakes environment of high school. Middle schools in the city face the same challenges in academic achievement and chronic absenteeism as mentioned for elementary schools. The problem has more urgency, because if these students are disengaged, unclear about their future, and disconnected from the real-world purpose of their education, motivation, and performance suffer.

Similarly, for too many students, high school remains a fragmented experience that does not fully equip them for success in college, careers, or civic life. The city has a wide range of high school options—including specialized, CTE, early college, and thematic schools—yet access remains uneven, particularly for students from underserved or historically marginalized communities. A diploma alone no longer guarantees readiness for postsecondary success. Many NYC graduates struggle in college or fail to complete it, while others lack pathways into high-wage careers. According to CUNY, nearly 50% of NYC district school graduates who enroll in community colleges require remediation in at least one subject. [11]

As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will champion transformative programs where every NYC middle and high school student not only accelerates their learning but also explores future careers and life pathways tied to the city's evolving economy.

Proposal 4. Launch a Mentorship and Career Exploration Program

As mayor, Andrew Cuomo will launch a Citywide Mentorship and Career Exposure Program matching middle and high school students with a mentor from the private sector, postsecondary institutions, or community organizations. Mentorship will be supported through virtual platforms and in-person site visits to deepen exposure to career fields.

The program would include classes where students explore pathways in high-growth industries like technology, construction, clean energy, healthcare, media, and the arts to link academic rigor with workforce relevance. Curriculum will include hands-on projects, digital skills, financial literacy, life planning, and high school admissions guidance.

[11] Campanile, Carl, and Susan Edelman. "Nearly Half of NYC DOE Grads at CUNY Need Remedial Classes." New York Post, Feb. 25, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/02/25/nearly-half-of-nyc-doe-grads-need-cuny-remedial-classes/>.

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Students will also be connected to citywide education and training hubs like Civic Hall at Union Square, Career and Technical Education (CTE) high schools, EDGIES Teen Center, and FutureReadyNYC programs, ensuring clear bridges to postsecondary and workforce opportunities.

Proposal 5. Increase Dual Enrollment and Summer Bridge for Rising High Schoolers

Andrew Cuomo will embed dual enrollment pathways into middle-to-high school transitions—connecting students who show interest or aptitude to accelerated high school tracks that include college coursework with local CUNY institutions, industry certifications, or associate degree pathways alongside the high school curriculum. Programming will begin before high school, with summer bridge programs between 8th and 9th grade. This will ease the transition and reduce “high school shock” while building early momentum toward postsecondary success.

Proposal 6. Expand High-Impact Academic Support in Middle Schools

To ensure all students meet rising academic expectations, Andrew Cuomo will expand access to high-dosage tutoring, small-group instruction, and targeted academic support blocks in every New York City middle school. These evidence-based strategies are proven to accelerate learning—particularly for students from underserved communities who have experienced significant learning loss or opportunity gaps.

Under this initiative, middle schools will be resourced to provide structured academic intervention during the regular school day and after school. High-dosage tutoring—defined as at least three sessions per week in small groups of no more than four students—will be prioritized in foundational subjects such as math and reading. Trained tutors, including certified teachers, paraprofessionals, and qualified college students, will deliver these supports using structured, research-backed curricula.

Proposal 7. Establish the NYC Education Innovation Lab Network

New York City sits at the center of a rapidly expanding innovation economy—home to global tech firms, world-class universities, and a vibrant network of entrepreneurs, educators, and civic leaders. For example, Artificial Intelligence is changing education and the economy. Yet innovation in our public schools remains fragmented and slow to adapt and scale to meet the fast-changing innovation sector.

As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will launch the NYC Education Innovation Lab Network. In partnership with NYCDOE, CUNY, SUNY, private colleges and universities, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, and leading tech organizations, the Lab will serve as a public-private platform to accelerate and scale education and training aligned with the needs of the tech and innovation economy.

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This includes integrating artificial intelligence, coding, robotics, and data science into the core K–12 curriculum. Beginning in the early grades, students will build foundational digital literacy, progressing to advanced coursework and real-world projects by high school.

The Innovation Lab Network will operate as an R&D engine for education—piloting cutting-edge strategies such as AI-powered personalized learning, interdisciplinary project-based instruction, and calendar reforms like year-round or flexible schedules to strengthen digital fluency.

As part of the initiative, Cuomo will propose an Innovation Sandbox to grant participating schools regulatory flexibility to test new approaches. Schools will apply with support from superintendents, educators, and community stakeholders. Successful models will be scaled citywide through the DOE’s Office of School Design.

These efforts will be backed by investments in modern science and computer labs, cloud-based learning platforms, and ongoing teacher training tailored to emerging technologies.

Proposal 8. Scale Early College, CTE, and Work-Based Learning Opportunities for Every High School Student

Every New York City high school student should have access to dual enrollment, Career and Technical Education, paid internships, and hands-on work-based learning by 10th grade—regardless of background. These pathways are key to unlocking postsecondary success and economic mobility.

As Governor, Andrew Cuomo led one of the nation’s most ambitious expansions of early college and CTE programs. He launched New York’s statewide Early College High School initiative specifically focused on P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School)—blending high school, college, and workforce training into a six-year program that culminates in both a high school diploma and a no-cost associate degree. He expanded CUNY Early College partnerships and aligned public education with workforce demands across the state.

As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will scale these proven models across New York City and push to have every student graduate with college credit, a career credential, or both. He will implement the following:

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- Guarantee universal access to dual enrollment by 10th grade by expanding partnerships between NYC DOE and CUNY/SUNY to offer college courses in every high school. Create satellite CUNY campuses inside large high schools in underserved areas and offer tuition-free enrollment and academic advising to participating students.
- Expand proven Early College High Schools models, like P-TECH, in every borough by at least doubling the number of P-TECH and CUNY Early College programs by 2029, with a focus on underserved and historically marginalized neighborhoods. Prioritize sectors such as cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, healthcare, and the creative arts. Industry partners will provide mentorship, internships, and guaranteed job interviews upon completion.
- Launch a citywide work-based learning guarantee, whereby 11th grade, every student will have the opportunity to participate in at least one paid internship, apprenticeship, or project-based learning experience—co-designed with local employers, unions, and workforce boards.
- Invest in new CTE pathways and facilities by allocating capital funding for state-of-the-art CTE labs, mobile maker spaces, and industry-standard equipment in every borough. Focus on emerging fields like green construction, biotechnology, eSports and digital media, and data analytics.
- Establish a CTE educator pipeline and industry credentialing fund to help launch specialized training and certification program to recruit and prepare CTE instructors from industry backgrounds.

Proposal 9. Build Seamless Transitions to Postsecondary Education by Establishing the College and Career Transition Corps

As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will establish a college and career transition corps in high schools that supports students in applying to college, trade schools, apprenticeships, and for jobs. The Corps will provide free SAT prep, FAFSA support, and CUNY, SUNY, and private college application guidance. The program would connect graduating students to summer bridge programs and job placement support to prevent “summer melt” or disconnection after graduation.

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Part C. Building a Cohesive Cradle to Career System by Scaling Proven Models to Improve Academic Achievement

New York City’s public education system cannot rely on a one-size-fits-all approach to academic success. To truly close achievement gaps and unlock the potential of every student, the city must scale what works—proven models that address the whole child/individual, expand access to high-quality options, and ensure every school is equipped to meet the diverse needs of its community.

Too often academic interventions are isolated from the broader realities that shape student success—poverty, mental health, housing insecurity, or lack of access to enrichment and support. That is why Andrew Cuomo’s detailed plan for education extends beyond classroom instruction. It focuses on integrating effective models—like community schools and mental health services—into the very foundation of the school system, ensuring they are not pilot programs or add-ons, but core operating standards across all five boroughs.

Proposal 10. Establish a Community School Development Fund to Expand Access to High Quality Community Schools

Andrew Cuomo invested heavily in expanding New York’s network of community schools—establishing a proven model that improves academic achievement, boosts attendance, and strengthens family engagement. A recent RAND study found that community schools have demonstrated significant success in two of the most pressing challenges facing education today: chronic absenteeism and academic achievement, particularly among vulnerable student populations. Compared to non-community schools, community schools have achieved notable reductions in chronic absenteeism. [12] Additionally, students enrolled in community schools have shown stronger academic performance. [13]

[12] See: New York City Department of Education. “NYC Community Schools: Our Results.” InfoHub, <https://infohub.nyced.org/in-our-schools/working-with-the-doe/community-schools/nyc-community-schools-our-results> and Johnston, William R., et al. “Illustrating the Promise of Community Schools: An Assessment of the Impact of the NYC Community Schools Initiative.” RAND Corporation, 2020, https://www.communityschools.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/RAND_RB10107.pdf. For example, elementary and middle schools experienced a 7.3% decrease in chronic absenteeism, while high schools saw an 8.3% reduction. The impact was even more pronounced among specific groups: high school students in temporary housing had a 9.3% point lower absenteeism rate, and Black students experienced a 10.1% decrease compared to their counterparts in non-community schools.

[13] Ibid. Graduation rates in community schools were 4.9% higher than in comparison to non-community schools. Additionally, students in grades 3–8 achieved math scores that were higher.

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Many schools operate in isolation from the communities they serve, limiting access to resources and supports that could enhance student success. Currently, only 421 of NYC's nearly 1,600 schools function as community schools with integrated support services. [14]

As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will build on that foundation by transforming public schools into full-service community schools, starting with those that serve the city's most vulnerable students. Schools in underserved or historically marginalized neighborhoods, those with high rates of absenteeism, homelessness, or unmet mental health needs will be prioritized for immediate conversion. These schools will become neighborhood hubs that offer not only rigorous academics, but also integrated wraparound supports—mental health services, after-school enrichment, family counseling, job training, and access to health and nutrition resources.

Specifically, as Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will expand the model across all five boroughs by:

- Establishing a dedicated Community School Development Fund to provide sustainable, multi-year support for programming, staff, and community and program partnerships—leveraging public-private investments and foundation support.
- Guaranteeing access to mental health services in every school, including licensed social workers, trauma-informed counselors, and peer support programs. Schools will partner with local clinics and CBOs to scale services efficiently.
- Creating family resource and workforce navigation centers in schools located in underserved communities—offering GED prep, ESL classes, parenting workshops, benefits enrollment, and job training in partnership with city workforce agencies.
- Embedding health and nutrition services, including on-site dental screenings, telehealth access, and healthy meals available before, during, and after school.

Community schools have been proven to improve attendance, academic outcomes, and family engagement. Andrew Cuomo will make them the standard—not the exception—by integrating this model into the core operating framework of every NYC public school. This guarantee reflects his long-standing belief that schools should be engines of community strength and social mobility—not silos of academic instruction alone.

[14] New York City Department of Education. Community Schools. NYC Public Schools, <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/programs/community-schools>. Accessed May 18, 2025.

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Proposal 11. Work Toward Universal Aftercare Programs

As part of the community school expansion, Andrew Cuomo will launch a universal after-school and extended learning initiative, ensuring every student has access to enrichment, tutoring, sports, and arts programming at no cost to families.

Proposal 12. Implementing the Class Size Reduction Law

Andrew Cuomo supports the Class-Size Reduction Law that was adopted by the State in 2022, but unless there is an increase in funding from the state to cover the cost of the small class size mandate, the program cannot be successful given its substantial cost, which will derail necessary investments in other areas in the absence of new state funding. The Independent Budget Office and the Citizens Budget Commission have each estimated that the cost of hiring 17,000 teachers to meet this mandate will cost at least \$1.2 billion a year or more, [15] not to mention the potential for billions of dollars in capital for additional classroom space. As mayor, Andrew Cuomo will work with all stakeholders to ensure funding is available to implement the law in a way that puts our students and educators first.

Proposal 13. Strengthen Mental Health Supports

To ensure all students are ready to learn and thrive, every New York City high school will be equipped with a robust network of mental health supports and resources that promote safe, inclusive school environments. Andrew Cuomo will expand the number of on-site mental health professionals, including counselors and social workers trained in trauma-informed care, as well as a full-time community school coordinator to integrate services and support student well-being. He will also expand partnerships with nonprofits and community-based organizations to deliver on-campus counseling, and peer mentoring, ensuring students have access to consistent, culturally responsive support.

Proposal 14. Build a Unified Birth-to-Career Data and Accountability System

To understand what's working—and what isn't—we need better data. New York City's education and workforce systems are fragmented, and statutes contain outdated reporting requirements, making it difficult to track student progress, identify service gaps, or evaluate program effectiveness from early childhood through postsecondary education and career. Critical data—from preschool special education service delivery to high school-to-college transitions—are scattered across agencies, inconsistently reported, and frequently delayed. The NYC Department of Education has faced criticism for its failure to post timely or complete data. [16] But the real challenge is there is no central data system at all.

[15] New York City Independent Budget Office. How Would the New Limits to Class Sizes Affect New York City Schools? July 2023, www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/how-would-the-new-limits-to-class-sizes-affect-new-york-city-schools-july-2023.pdf.

[16] See Egorov, Danyela Souza. Chronic Absenteeism Is Hampering School Improvement Efforts in New York City: What Can Be Done About It? Manhattan Institute, Mar. 6, 2025, <https://media4.manhattan-institute.org/wp-content/uploads/chronic-absenteeism-hampering-school-improvement-efforts-new-york-city.pdf>.

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As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will build a unified, citywide Birth-to-Career Data and Accountability System—an integrated platform that tracks a student’s education from birth through workforce entry. At the center will be a public-facing dashboard that links key disaggregated data sets from DOE, CUNY, ACS, DOHMH, and workforce agencies. This secure system will provide real-time insight into developmental screenings, service delivery, attendance, academic performance, college enrollment, credentials earned, and employment outcomes for the public. For families, the system will provide clear, multilingual information about their own child’s status and options for additional services and supports through a secure portal.

Proposal 15. Preserve Mayoral Control

Andrew Cuomo has long supported mayoral control and, as Governor, fought for its renewal. The New York City school system is the largest in the nation, and it is critical that families and students have one person ultimately accountable for the outcomes of our schools. Andrew Cuomo believes that mayoral control remains the best path forward—but it must be strengthened through real community input and transparency. As Mayor, he will preserve this governance structure while elevating the voices of parents, educators, and local school leaders in decision-making.

Proposal 16. Support Diverse High-Impact School Models

Andrew Cuomo recognizes the importance of access to high-performing education options for families, particularly in historically marginalized and underserved neighborhoods.

Andrew Cuomo believes that building more excellent schools is the best answer to expanding the available number of seats for our best schools. The eight specialized high schools in New York City should continue to use the Specialized High Schools Admissions Test (SHSAT), because the city cannot afford to lower standards. But we should also intensify and expand access to programs to ensure that all New York City students have the best possible opportunity to prepare for the SHSAT.

Specialized high schools and public charter schools that demonstrate strong results for students—especially those of color or from underserved communities—must be supported and expanded, not politicized or undermined. Access to excellence should be available in every neighborhood and for every student.

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Part D. Supporting Our Teachers, Because Great Teachers Make Successful Students

Great teachers are the key ingredient in a student's success. However, a recent New York City Independent Budget Office report [17] found teacher retention rates, which had been stable or improving before the COVID-19 pandemic, declined to approximately 88% in 2022–2023, down from 92% in 2019–2020. This decrease is observed across both general and special education teachers and is more pronounced among less-experienced educators. Although teacher hiring rebounded to pre-pandemic levels in the last two years, the overall number of teachers in the system decreased by about 2,500 compared to the 2018–2019 peak. These trends occur amid challenges such as pandemic-related disruptions, a national decline in individuals entering the teaching profession, and new demands like class size reduction mandates and the need for more bilingual teachers.

Compounding the challenge is a recent report by The Education Trust–New York [18] which found disparities between the student population and teaching workforce. As of the 2023–24 school year, more than 80% of NYC students are students of color—42.2% identify as Hispanic, 19.5% as Black, 18.7% as Asian, and 16.2% as White. Yet 79% of NYC teachers are White, while only 10% are Black, 7% Hispanic, and 2% Asian. This lack of racial and ethnic representation among educators is compounded by retention challenges. While the statewide average four-year retention rate for teachers of color is 76%, New York City's rate is lower at just 72%.

Proposal 17. Invest in “Grow Your Own” Teacher and Education Leadership Pipelines

As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will invest additional funding in “Grow Your Own” programs that recruit aspiring educators and administrators from local communities, particularly students of color and those from underrepresented backgrounds. These programs will partner with CUNY schools of education to build pathways from high school through college into teaching careers, offering mentorship, financial support, and early exposure to the profession. Studies show that “Grow Your Own” models are effective in increasing both teacher and administrator diversity and retention, making them a critical strategy for strengthening the pipeline in high-need areas.

[17] Konrad, Julia, and Joydeep Roy. Roll Call: Recent Trends in Teacher Retention & Hiring in New York City Public Schools. New York City Independent Budget Office, Sept. 2023, <https://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/roll-call-recent-trends-in-teacher-retention-and-hiring-in-new-york-city-public-schools-september-2023.pdf>.

[18] The Education Trust–New York. Educator Diversity in New York: Data Tool and Analysis. The New York Equity Coalition, Jan. 2024, <https://newyork.edtrust.org/educator-diversity>.

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This program would focus on two main pipelines:

- Career-changers and mid-career professionals – Create fast-track pathways to the classroom for professionals from underrepresented communities, particularly in high-need subject areas.
- Education students in SUNY, CUNY, and private institutions – Support pre-service teachers of color with the resources and mentorship needed to enter and stay in the profession.

Andrew Cuomo will propose offering loan forgiveness and tuition assistance to aspiring teachers under this program, alongside paid teaching residencies and internships in New York City public schools. In partnership with higher education institutions, it would create expedited certification pathways to attract mid-career professionals and streamline entry into the profession. Once in the classroom, teachers would receive mentorship and coaching throughout their first three years, a critical period for retention. To ensure long-term impact, the initiative would also include leadership development tracks to build a robust pipeline of diverse future school principals and administrators.

Proposal 18. Expand the NYC Teaching Residency Program

To strengthen teacher preparation and improve retention, Andrew Cuomo will scale up the NYC Teaching Residency program to prepare at least 1,000 new teachers annually through a yearlong, clinically rich residency model. Participants will engage in hands-on classroom experience alongside expert mentors while completing coursework for teacher certification through accredited institutions. This approach bridges the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that aspiring educators are well-equipped to meet the diverse needs of New York City students from day one.

Teacher residencies have been shown to significantly improve both teacher effectiveness and retention. According to research from the Learning Policy Institute, 82% of residency graduates remain in their same district through years three and four, compared to just 72% of non-residency peers. [19] High-quality residency models are among the most promising strategies to address persistent teacher shortages—particularly in high-need subject areas and schools. While these programs require more upfront investment than traditional pathways, the long-term payoff in workforce stability, student outcomes, and cost-efficiency is substantial. Under Andrew Cuomo’s plan, New York City will partner with CUNY, SUNY, and leading nonprofit and school-based training providers to ensure a scalable, high-impact model that yields a pipeline of diverse, well-prepared, and committed educators for years to come.

[19] Worley, Lauren, and Nicolas Zerbino. “Teacher Residencies Offer Compelling Solution to Staffing Shortages, Although at a Large Cost.” Brookings Institution, 22 May 2023, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/teacher-residencies-offer-compelling-solution-to-staffing-shortages-although-at-a-large-cost/>.

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Proposal 19. Create the “Teach Where It Counts” Incentive Fund

To tackle chronic staffing shortages in high-need subjects and underserved schools, Andrew Cuomo will propose the creation of the Teach Where It Counts Incentive Fund. This initiative will provide annual stipends ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to educators who commit to teaching in shortage areas—such as STEM and special education—or in schools with consistently high turnover rates.

Research shows that even modest increases in compensation can significantly improve teacher retention, particularly in hard-to-staff settings. By strategically targeting incentives, this fund will help stabilize the educator workforce, improve instructional continuity, and ensure that all students—regardless of zip code—have access to qualified, committed teachers.

Proposal 20. Expand Educator Training and Professional Development—With a Focus on Reading and Math Curricula Implementation and Embedding Career Pathways into Core Academics

New York City is in the process of implementing a new evidence-based reading and math curricula citywide, a critical step in addressing low literacy and math rates that drive persistent achievement gaps. However, even the best curriculum will fall short if teachers are not adequately trained and supported to deliver it effectively. Currently, professional development is inconsistent across schools, often disconnected from classroom realities, and lacks sustained support to help educators translate theory into practice.

As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will launch a comprehensive Educator Training and Instructional Coaching Initiative, focused on the successful implementation of the new reading and math curricula and anchored in best practices—centered on training, coaching, and sustained support.

In addition, Andrew Cuomo will invest in training middle school teachers to integrate career themes into core subjects through targeted professional development and curriculum toolkits. Educators will be equipped to embed career-aligned content into ELA, math, science, and social studies—connecting classroom learning to real-world applications. For example, a math unit might center on budgeting for a small business or designing a renewable energy system to meet capacity needs for a home or business.

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Part E. Reimagining and Integrating Postsecondary and Workforce Systems

New York City's students must be prepared not just to graduate—but to thrive in an economy defined by rapid technological change, climate adaptation, and shifting labor market demands. Yet today, the systems responsible for preparing New Yorkers for economic success—K–12 education, postsecondary institutions, and workforce training programs—often operate in silos. As a result, too many students fall through the cracks, navigating a fragmented pipeline with unclear pathways from classroom to career.

Andrew Cuomo believes New York City must take steps to unify and modernize these disconnected systems into a coherent, cradle-to-career infrastructure. This means aligning curriculum, credentials, and real-world experience across Pre-K–12 education, CUNY and SUNY campuses, adult education, and nonprofit and employer-led training programs. It also means creating a citywide strategy to ensure that every student—whether 16 or 60—has access to the knowledge, support, and opportunity needed to succeed in high-growth, high-wage sectors such as green energy, healthcare, and technology.

Organizations such as the New York City Employment and Training Coalition [20] have called for better coordination between education and workforce systems, expanded access to industry-aligned credentials, and greater public investment in equitable, demand-driven workforce development. By advancing this agenda, Andrew Cuomo will make New York City a national leader in career-connected learning—where each stage of a student's education is connected, supported, and aligned with the realities of the modern economy.

Proposal 21. Launch the \$100M High-Demand Jobs Accelerator Program

New York City stands at the intersection of a number of the fastest-growing, highest-paying sectors in today's economy, including green energy and technology. Both offer the promise of transformative job creation, climate resilience, and global competitiveness—but only if the city moves quickly to align its workforce pipeline with the scale and speed of employer demand.

[20] Clear Capacity Research and Consulting. Putting Our Dollars to Work: An Analysis of Public Funding for Workforce Development in New York City. Edited by David Fischer, designed by Stislow Design, funded by the Fund for the City of New York, New York City Employment and Training Coalition, Mar. 2025, https://nycetc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Putting-Our-Dollars-to-Work_March-2025.pdf.

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Today, that alignment is lacking. In the green economy alone, New York City is falling behind. A 2023 report by the Center for an Urban Future found that employers posted 22,070 green jobs—a 12.8% increase since 2019—yet many positions went unfilled due to a shortage of qualified workers. [21] In areas like building electrification, energy retrofits, and solar installation, demand is rapidly outpacing supply. In some trades, the gap is stark: a 2024 Parks Department report revealed that the city has fewer than 250 licensed tree climbers and pruners for over 2 million street and park trees, delaying critical climate adaptation projects. Compounding the problem, there are persistent equity gaps in the sector—women hold just 2% of skilled trade jobs like plumbing and electrical work, and communities of color are underrepresented in nearly every area of the green economy.

The challenge is mirrored in the digital/technology sector. As infrastructure becomes smarter and more interconnected, there is surging demand for cybersecurity specialists, data analysts, AI technicians, and systems engineers. These roles command high wages but require up-to-date skills in digital literacy and advanced analytics—competencies that many existing training programs are not yet equipped to deliver, particularly in underserved communities.

To bridge these gaps and connect New Yorkers with high-growth, high-wage careers, Andrew Cuomo will launch the High-Demand Jobs Accelerator Program. This \$100 million public-private partnership fund will be dedicated to rapidly scaling workforce training programs for high-demand and high-wage sectors. The program will prioritize recruitment from communities that have long been excluded from these industries. It will also ensure that training is demand driven guaranteeing access to a pipeline of existing jobs.

As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will establish a High-Demand Workforce Taskforce composed of labor unions, employers, CUNY and other higher education leaders, training providers, and relevant city agencies. This group will be charged with setting clear occupational standards, aligning credentials with real-time labor market data, and ensuring that every program funded leads directly to in-demand jobs with strong wage and growth potential.

This is more than just a workforce development or education initiative—it is an economic development strategy to ensure New York City has the talent pipeline to drive growth, expand opportunity in every community, and keep the Big Apple a place where businesses can start, grow, and thrive.

[21] Center for an Urban Future. New York City's Green Economy Opportunity. Mar. 2025, <https://nycfuture.org/research/new-york-citys-green-economy-opportunity>.

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Proposal 22. Launch the “Learn and Earn Network”: Building School-to-Work Pipelines with Employers

As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will launch the Learn and Earn Network, a citywide initiative to build direct school-to-work pipelines connecting high schools and colleges with employers in high-growth sectors such as green energy, healthcare, technology, and other emerging industries. Through robust public-private partnerships, employers will co-design curricula, provide career mentorship, and offer paid internships, job shadowing, and other work-based learning opportunities.

The Learn and Earn Network will be integrated with CUNY associate degree programs and workforce credentialing initiatives, creating seamless transitions from school to career. This approach will give students a meaningful head start in both college and the workforce—while ensuring that talent development aligns with New York City's real economic needs.

Proposal 23. Create a System of Lifelong Learning for Adults

With over 40 million Americans having some college coursework completed but no degree [22], and countless others in need of upskilling, New York City must build a system that supports lifelong learning, career mobility, and community wellbeing. As Mayor, Andrew Cuomo will expand flexible education programs for working adults and other non-traditional students, such as digital skills bootcamps, creating true cradle-to-career support systems. This initiative will offer micro and stackable credentials, developed in collaboration with workforce training providers and CUNY (like LaGuardia Community College) and SUNY campuses (like Empire State University), ensuring adult learners can earn credentials tied to in-demand jobs. Learning will be modular, flexible, and community-based—not static or linear. Every adult, regardless of prior education or employment status, will have a pathway to meaningful work and personal advancement.

[22] June, Audrey Williams. "The Number of U.S. Adults with Some College but No Degree Keeps Growing." The Chronicle of Higher Education, 25 Apr. 2023, www.chronicle.com/article/the-number-of-u-s-adults-with-some-college-but-no-degree-keeps-growing.

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Proposal 24. Aligning CUNY and DOE Career Pipelines by Creating a Pathways Coordination Council

Andrew Cuomo will create a Pathways Coordination Council to strengthen and expand partnerships between New York City Department of Education high school career programs and CUNY community colleges to ensure a seamless transition from high school to postsecondary education. This initiative will include expanded dual enrollment programs—such as early college high schools— that allow students to earn college credit while still in high school, as well as aligned curricula that map directly to associate degrees and industry-recognized certifications. In key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare, cybersecurity, and clean energy, high schools and CUNY campuses will share facilities and faculty, creating unified career pathways and reducing barriers to degree completion. The council will help to create enhanced articulation agreements between institutions to minimize redundancy, decrease time to credential, and significantly increase postsecondary degree or certification attainment for students across the city.

Proposal 25. Create 5,000 Additional Youth Apprenticeships by 2029

Andrew Cuomo will launch a citywide youth apprenticeship initiative with the goal of creating at least 5,000 new paid apprenticeship positions by 2029. These apprenticeships will blend classroom learning with hands-on job training in fields like construction, technology, early childhood education, and building trades. Participants will earn while they learn and exit programs with industry-recognized credentials and a strong pathway to permanent employment. The program will be designed in collaboration with CUNY, labor unions, and private employers, using a braided funding model that includes public investment and employer contributions. Research finds that youth apprenticeship graduates earn starting wages 40% higher than their peers in comparable entry-level jobs, making this one of the most effective tools for economic mobility. [23]

[23] Jobs for the Future. Youth Apprenticeship RAPIDS. 2021, <https://info.jff.org/apprenticeshipdeia-youth-apprenticeship-rapids>.