



THE 853 COALITION

2024 PRIORITIES

Tuition Rate Methodology

Students who attend 853 schools should receive equitable investments from the state as the public school districts they would otherwise attend. The Coalition advocates for continued investments in our students with disabilities on par with those provided to their peers in district schools, so we can deliver the educational opportunity our students deserve.

The New York State Coalition of 853 Schools supports the inclusion of additional funding (\$1.4 M) towards the re-design of the tuition rate methodology—the mechanism for calculating funding for our schools—included in the Executive Budget

Interim Plus Rates

Until such time as the new tuition rate methodology is implemented, interim plus rates must be authorized in a manner that allows schools to more fully realize all of the state investments of the last several years by authorizing rate growth even when schools are operating under temporary tuition rates.

Workforce

We must ensure that initiatives to address the school workforce crisis include 853 settings.

This will ensure that students unable to be served directly by the public school district of residence, who are placed in 853 schools based on their needs, have equitable access to quality teachers.

Federal Paycheck Protection Program Funding

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was a lifeline in helping programs to ensure that they could remain operational despite the uncertainty around them due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, the state is treating PPP as offsetting revenue in the year in which the loan is forgiven. As a result, schools that accepted these funds will now be penalized through their state-set rates—their rates will be significantly diminished. The special education sector is the only sector where PPP funding is applied in this manner.



Michelle Newman at mnewman@cofcca.org