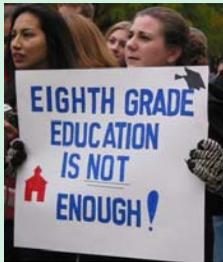


*"We can turn our state's public schools around, but to do so, we must give them the resources they need while supporting proven reforms."* – Governor Eliot Spitzer

## Money Does Matter



Empirical evidence shows that when effectively spent, adequate school funding yields dramatic improvements in academic achievement, primarily in the lowest-performing schools.

The 2007–2008 State Education Budget and Reform Act, which resulted from the landmark *CFE v. State of New York* lawsuit, will bring over \$7 billion into the state's lowest performing classrooms over the next four years to undo the devastating impact of the funding inadequacies of the past. Now is the time to ensure that this hard-won money is spent to maximize results and provide meaningful opportunities for all public school students.

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**ENSURING  
A  
SOUND BASIC EDUCATION  
FOR  
ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS  
IN  
NEW YORK STATE**

# New York's Future: It's in our schools!

The Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc. (CFE), a non profit organization, leads the effort to protect and promote the constitutional right to a sound basic education in the State of New York. Founded in 1993 by a group of parents and education advocates, CFE filed and won the landmark *CFE v. State of New York* lawsuit that challenged the state's school finance system which under-funded New York City schools, denying its students their constitutional right. The court defined a sound basic education as a meaningful high school education that prepares students for competitive employment and civic participation. CFE worked with a broad-based coalition to turn the lawsuit into law with the Education Budget and Reform Act of 2007–2008 which will benefit all public school students throughout New York State. CFE now works to secure full funding and implementation of the massive school finance and accountability reforms, to ensure transparency, adequate information to measure academic progress, and secure meaningful public participation in the development of education programs and policies.

*"I remain hopeful that policymakers will continue to strive to make the schools not merely adequate, but excellent."* – Hon. Judith Kaye, Chief New York State Judge

*"CFE's work to help failing schools remains an urgent priority."* – Robert Jackson, New York City Councilman and CFE Founder



Final ruling in the *CFE v. State of New York* lawsuit led to the enactment of the 2007–2008 State Education Budget and Reform Act, which started a new era in our quest for educational excellence.

## What We Won:

- Over \$7 billion in new state education funding over the next four years for public schools in New York State;
- \$5.4 billion for New York City (\$3.2 billion new state money combined with a required local share of \$2.2 billion);
- A new foundation aid formula based on need;
- Unprecedented accountability measures, including the Contract for Excellence (CFE);
- A voice for parents!

## What is the Contract for Excellence?

Contracts for Excellence are plans developed between the State and low performing school districts that receive substantial increases detailing how the money will be spent and what it will accomplish. The “contracts” must be developed with participation of parents and the public.

## Why are these important?

Contracts for Excellence provide parents and the public the opportunity to shape the policies and priorities for education spending, and access information so that they can monitor and enforce the “contracts.”

## How will the “Contract” money will used?

Contracts for Excellence require that the foundation aid be spent in creating and/or expanding initiatives in five key areas: reducing class size, more time on task, improving teacher and principal quality, restructuring middle and high schools, and establishing full day pre-K.



## Why should you care?

If the resources provided by the 2007–2008 State Education Budget and Reform Act over 4 years are not spent wisely, our children will not receive their constitutional right to a sound basic education.

## What can you do?

Get involved. Analysis of Contracts and proposed regulations require public input. Use your right to be heard!

For more information about CFE, the State Education Budget and Reform Law, and the Contract for Excellence, call (212) 867-8455 or visit [www.cfequity.org](http://www.cfequity.org).