

WVCSD EdTalk: April 12, 2023
Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools

Governor Hochul proposed an executive budget in January that would fully fund state foundation aid. An increase of approximately \$4.3 million in foundation aid would go a long way toward addressing inflation-related financial challenges. Remember, however, that this increase only restores foundation aid that should have been received in past years. Despite receiving one third of its revenue from state aid, our foundation aid still lags behind other similarly-sized school districts in the area due to the state's wealth ratio calculation.

The state Legislature approved Governor Hochul's one-week budget "extender" on April 3, allowing the state to operate through April 10. Unless a full budget agreement is reached before April 10, another extension will need to be approved by Hochul and lawmakers.

For a change, education funding does not seem to be a major obstacle at the state level. As you may be aware, there is a disagreement between Governor Hochul and lawmakers regarding a law passed in 2019, which eliminated cash bail for criminal charges. Hochul has proposed changes to the law to make it easier for judges to set bail in serious criminal cases, but lawmakers are not in agreement. This has caused tension, and the outcome of this dispute could significantly impact New York's criminal justice system. The issue is likely to continue to be debated and analyzed in the coming days.

Although it is reported that nearly all of their private negotiations have centered around this issue, there are other outstanding proposals, such as Hochul's plans to permit more charter schools in New York City and allow SUNY and CUNY schools to raise tuition, which most lawmakers have resisted.

When allocating funds, the process should always involve collecting and analyzing enrollment, staffing, and student needs data. Warwick Valley Central School District's student enrollment remains strong. Here's a quick look at our student enrollment by school:

Park Avenue Elementary School (K-4): 471 students
Sanfordville Elementary School (K-4): 802 students
Warwick Valley Middle School (5-8): 1,086 students
Warwick Valley High School (9-12): 1,364 students

Current total enrollment: 3,723 students