

An update on the district's 2008-09 Contract for Excellence

The 2008-09 New York State budget is providing the City School District of Albany with additional funding and opportunities to invest in new resources and programs to help all students achieve greater academic success.

The increased funding requires the district to develop a Contract for Excellence. A district must meet this requirement if it receives an increase in funding of at least \$15 million or 10 percent, and has one or more schools requiring improvement. The City School District of Albany's \$13 million increase in state aid represents a 17.9 percent increase, and the district also meets the requirement for academic improvement.

The district will work with the state in the coming months to develop a contract and has committed \$1.5 million for new and expanded programs that specifically will help students make strong academic strides.

The district was exempt from filing a Contract for Excellence for the 2007-08 school year because the increase in state aid was offset by a significant increase in charter school costs.

Details about the district's Contract for Excellence will be provided during the May 6 budget hearing at Albany High School and other budget presentations in advance of the May 20 vote, providing an opportunity for the community to offer input and feedback.