

Building on over **70** Years of Advocacy
and Billions of Dollars to Our Yeshivos



**AGUDATH
ISRAEL OF
AMERICA**

**2017 NEW YORK STATE
BUDGET SCORECARD**

AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA: 2017 NYS BUDGET SCORECARD

TUITION TAX CREDIT DIRECTLY TO PARENTS



Yeshiva parents struggle courageously to provide a quality Jewish education for their children. **Tuition payments weigh heavily on every family sending a child to yeshiva.** While Agudath Israel has successfully advocated for **billions** of dollars to assist NYS yeshivos over the years, this year Agudath Israel advanced an innovative tax credit **directly to middle-class parents** struggling to pay tuition.



Our bill garnered significant interest. Our disappointment on behalf of the community when the bill did not pass was tempered by our deep experience that advocacy is a marathon, not a sprint. Our Regional Directors, who have been instrumental in the introduction of game-changing school choice funding initiatives in Florida, Maryland, Ohio and other states after years of concerted effort, can attest to that.

PAY CAP DEBT TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



\$60 million in additional CAP funds to nonpublic schools



On the heels of the state dispensing **\$250 million of new money to nonpublic schools** in 2015 and 2016 to rectify a funding formula error raised by Agudath Israel and other groups, the state reallocated **\$60 million** to redress the CAP funding shortfall this year. With **\$310 million of the estimated \$330 million shortfall corrected following nearly a decade of advocacy**, we are thankful to the Governor, Senate, and Assembly.

CAP (Comprehensive Attendance Policy) is one leg of **NYS' expansive mandated service reimbursement program to nonpublic schools**. This program, spearheaded by **Rabbi Moshe Sherer z"l**, legendary president of Agudath Israel, transcends the legal and political hurdles of NYS providing assistance to religious institutions by creating a rubric whereby schools are simply reimbursed for mandates the state imposes on schools, such as maintaining pupil attendance.

INCREASE REIMBURSEMENT FOR IMMUNIZATION MANDATE



\$7 million to nonpublic schools in NYC, Rochester, and Buffalo



When Agudath Israel was informed by a yeshiva executive director of a reimbursement mandate that had **languished on the books at 60 cents** per pupil to maintain immunizations records, thereby shortchanging schools, **Agudath Israel took action.**

Not content to present a non-evidence-based request to the state, Agudath Israel conducted an **exhaustive survey** of nonpublic schools across pertinent areas in NYC, Rochester, and Buffalo. The goal was to statistically determine the true average cost to nonpublic schools of complying with this state mandate. **The NYS Senate concurred nearly precisely with Agudath Israel's financial modeling.** This mandate was thereby **successfully raised from obscurity to \$7 million, an astounding increase of over 4800% for a task nonpublic schools are already performing!**

NEW SECURITY FUNDING STREAM TO COMBAT HATE CRIMES AND ANTI- SEMITISM



\$25 million to combat hate crimes



This project is an initiative of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and in line with Agudath Israel's focused advocacy on security for over 3 years.

These funds will be available to at-risk nonpublic schools, community centers, and daycare facilities. **Programmatic details are being promulgated.**



AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA: 2017 NYS BUDGET SCORECARD

SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE SAFETY EQUIPMENT FUNDING TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS



\$10.5 million in additional funds

Repeating the win from last year, this new funding more than triples the previous \$4.5 million security allocation, for a total of \$15 million, much needed in today's increasingly uncertain security climate.



Hashem is the true Shomer dalsos, but significantly increasing this funding and securing the facilities where our children spend the majority of their days is the necessary hishtadlus.

MEANINGFULLY BROADEN ELIGIBILITY ITEMS LIST FOR SAFETY EQUIPMENT FUNDS



New options in security, health-related and fire safety equipment

Yeshivas will now have access to significantly more state funding for safety and security as well as expanded opportunities to spend those funds in ways that meaningfully address the real-life concerns each school may have.



Recognizing the spectrum of safety and security concerns our children face at school, Agudath Israel successfully advocated for the expansion of the list of reimbursable items to include **new security items**, such as security guards, school safety and security assessments, and training. Also **newly included are health-related items**, such as asbestos testing, lead testing, carbon monoxide detectors and costly automatic external defibrillators. Finally, a new category of **fire safety equipment**, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, are reimbursable.

ENHANCE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL PARTICIPATION IN THE SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT (SSBA)



At least an additional \$25 million toward technology equipment for nonpublic schools

The SSBA is a \$2 billion investment by NYS to improve education in public schools, which includes a limited provision for technology items for nonpublic schools.



After reviewing the plans of several districts, Agudath Israel's legal team concluded that the computation of funds for nonpublic schools was **short of the statutorily prescribed method**. For nearly two years, Agudath Israel spearheaded the correction of this calculation to accord with our read of the law. **Following 7 meetings at the highest levels of the Governor's office and NYC DOE, and presentations before the NYS Senate**, we are pleased to see the allocation of **an additional \$25 million toward eligible loanable technology equipment for nonpublic schools**.

Schools should be mindful of this upcoming funding stream when planning new technology initiatives.

Agudath Israel recognizes NYS Budget Director, Robert Mujica; former Secretary to the Governor, Bill Mulrow; NYS Deputy Secretary of Education, Jere Hochman; NYS Assistant Counsel to Governor Cuomo, Terry Pratt; and Special Assistant for Community Affairs at NYS Executive Chamber, David Lobl, for their receptivity and leadership on this issue. Agudath Israel also recognizes Senate Majority Leader, John Flanagan, and Senate Majority Counsel, Elizabeth Garvey, for their unflagging support on this and all nonpublic school issues on behalf of our community.

DURING THE NYS LEGISLATIVE SESSION'S CLOSING WEEKS, AGUDATH ISRAEL IS WORKING TO:

- Oppose a bill that legalizes physician assisted suicide;
- Advocate for even further nonpublic school equitable participation in the SSBA;
- Broaden the legal flexibility of batei dinim to function on weekends;
- Collaborate with Assemblyman David Weprin to provide kosher meals to public school children who request it.



Over \$120
million in NEW
funding to NYS
nonpublic
schools in 2017
alone!



AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA
COMMUNITY SERVICES

EDUCATION AFFAIRS

Yeshiva Services | Nonpublic School Advocacy

Yeshiva Services of Agudath Israel of America serves yeshivos, collaborates with government officials and bridges these worlds **to ensure that** the unique needs of **our yeshivos are understood, represented, and fiercely advocated for.**

Serving yeshivos: Led by Mrs. Deborah Zachai and Mrs. Leah Steinberg, providing a steady stream of informative emails and trainings that **principals and administrators depend on** to navigate the growing maze of laws, deadlines, and administrative requirements. With **over 400 Jewish schools in New York State alone**, Yeshiva Services lines ring constantly. If they don't know the answer, they direct the questioner to the government contact or attorney that does

Collaborating with government officials: Yeshiva Services members **sit on over a half dozen decision making governmental committees.** From that perch they are well situated to powerfully advocate for yeshivos at the city, state and federal levels on a kaleidoscope of issues. Yeshiva Services works hand in hand with Agudath Israel Advocacy and lay leaders, **instrumental in, brov siyata dishmaya, increasing funding to nonpublic schools in the amount of over \$120 million this year alone.** Quantum advancements in **funding for security and technology**, and fundamentally changing the way mandated services is reimbursed, are some of 2017's Agudath Israel Yeshiva Services highlights.



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WERDIGER**
*Chairman,
Board of
Trustees*



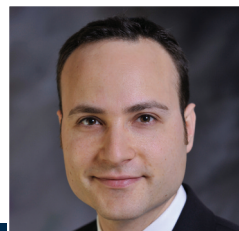
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