



June 4, 2026

NY State Legislature
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Re: Save the FY26 College in High School Opportunity Fund

The Business Council of New York State, Inc. strongly supports the ability of the College in High School Opportunity fund to act as an onramp to college and the workforce for young people. We thank you for the inclusion of this critical fund for FY27 in the enacted state budget, which includes support for P-TECH, Smart Scholars, Smart Transfer, College in High School programs, and a new P-TEACH program.

However, there is a serious concern regarding last year's funds. The FY27 enacted budget critically reappropriated the FY26 College in High School Opportunity Fund, which is necessary because the RFP for FY26 has not yet been released by NYSED. However, the reappropriation included language ("for the 2025-2026 school year") that puts those funds at risk of expiring as soon as this month.

NYSED said that DOB's interpretation of the instruction ("for the 2025-26 school year") means that those funds would need to be obligated and expended in FY2026. Since the RFPs aren't yet available for the FY26 funds, it will be impossible for the funds to be obligated and expended in FY2026. Unfortunately, according to the DOB, the inclusion of that instruction in the final budget bill means the \$60.335 million secured last year for the College in High School Opportunity Fund could disappear very soon. This would severely impact the availability of college in high school opportunities for students across the state.

To protect against the loss of these funds, we respectfully urge you to communicate to NYSED & DOB that the intent of reappropriating the FY26 funds in the FY27 budget so those funds can continue to remain available.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

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