The Assembly Republican Conference's plan for reducing college costs and preparing New York's Workforce for the 21st Century

Make College Affordable For All

- Enact the "Affordable College for All Initiative" to:
  - o Modernize the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) by increasing the household income cap threshold, providing a larger TAP award to each student, and reinstating TAP for graduate students (**A.5100, Malliotakis**).

  - o Reduce taxable income by both interest and principal payments on student loans (**A.5879, Malliotakis**).

Prepare a 21st Century Workforce

- Create a high school apprenticeship program (the Learning for Work Program) and incentivize community college attendance to address the "middle-skills" gap:
  - o **Learning for Work Program:** A three-part program with the goal of creating career-ready high school graduates:

    - **Youth Apprenticeship Program:** Create a one- or two-year program beginning in eleventh or twelfth grade that combines academic classroom coursework with mentored on-the-job training in a specific occupational area.

    - **Enhanced Regents Professional Degree**: Students who enroll in the Youth Apprenticeship Program would earn a degree with a designation in their career field of choice. Any student who is not offered, or who decides not to seek, employment in their field of choice would be awarded a minimum of 15 credit hours at any SUNY or CUNY institution.

    - **Youth Apprenticeship Tax Credit**: Establish a $1,500 per apprentice tax credit for businesses that take part in the Youth Apprenticeship Program (**A.4255, Ra**).

  - o Create the Community College Merit and Mobility Scholarship to provide students who graduate within the top twenty percent of their New York high school with a scholarship of $1,000 if they choose to attend a New York State Community College. (**A.6422, Smith**)

Require Greater Disclosure from Higher Education Institutions

- Require any higher education institution receiving State funding to disclose additional information to current and potential students, including (but not limited to):
    - Average post-degree earnings broken down by program of study.
    - Percentage of students with student loan debt upon graduation and students who do not complete a program of study.
    - Student loan default rate.
    - Financial aid breakdown by student type and specific programs of study.
    - Percent of students who receive the degree level initially sought (**A.6415, Smith**).

- Direct the Commissioner of Education to study the impact of Enhanced Tuition Awards on the cost of private college, and the effect the program has on non-recipient students (**A.2875, Byrne**).