

Education, Higher Education, and Workforce Development

The Assembly Republican Conference's common sense education, higher education, and workforce development plan to assist the next generation of New Yorkers:

Enhanced Tuition Awards Study – Directs 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.3887, Byrne**).

TAP Awards for Graduate Students – Allows graduate programs to qualify for the state tuition assistance program (**A.6917, Tannousis**).

Increased Income Threshold for TAP Awards – Increases the minimum tuition assistance program award from \$500 to \$1000, and increases the maximum parental income amount to \$110,000 (**A.7071, Ra**).

Student Loan Payment Adjustment – Reduces taxable income by both interest and principal payments of student loans. Single filers can receive up to \$4,000, head of household filers can receive up to \$6,000, and married filers can receive up to \$8,000 (**A.5879 of 2020**).

College Supplies Tax Deduction – Establishes college supplies as a tax deductible expense (**A.5301, Barclay**).

Learning for Work Program – A three-part plan to accelerate career readiness and reduce the burden of student loan debt:

- **Youth Apprenticeship Program**: Creates a one- or two-year program beginning in 11th or 12th 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 this 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 will be awarded a minimum of 15 credit hours at any SUNY or CUNY institution.
- **Youth Apprenticeship Tax Credit**: Establishes a \$1,500 per apprentice tax credit for businesses that take part in the Youth Apprenticeship Program (**A.8426, Walczyk**).

High School Diploma Eligibility – Allows a student who has obtained the necessary credits and passed either a Regents competency test or certain Regents examinations to be eligible for a high school diploma (**A.3257, Walsh**).

Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor Education – Allows a public secondary school, upon request of ten or more students, to establish a curriculum for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation (**A.4942, Palmesano**).

“Jacob’s Law” – Requires school administrators to contact the parents or guardians of students when bullying or harassment has occurred (**A.3027, Walsh**).