



# CITIZENS BUDGET COMMISSION

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## CITIZENS BUDGET COMMISSION RELEASES STATEMENT ON CFE SPECIAL MASTERS' RECOMMENDATIONS

New York, NY – November 30, 2004 – The Citizens Budget Commission (CBC) released the following statement by CBC President Diana Fortuna:

“The CFE special masters’ recommendation to increase operating funds for New York City public schools by \$5.6 billion over four years should shift the focus of public debate from how much money is needed to where the money will come from. An increase of \$5.6 billion annually will inevitably require a tax increase, by the State, the City, or both.

“The CBC study released yesterday shows that any court mandate of more than \$3.2 billion annually will require a tax increase, and presents options for how to raise the money. A tax increase would be required even if the State aggressively pursues such other funding sources as increased gambling revenues and efficiencies in school spending.

“The special masters also recommended added capital spending of \$9 billion over five years. The \$9 billion is too high. The CBC demonstrated in the same study that only \$3 billion is needed. Educational needs can be met more quickly and efficiently if the City were to implement a year-round education calendar and rezone school districts.”

The CBC will be holding a conference later this week, on December 2-3, to involve leaders from across the state in discussing these issues further.

The CBC study, released yesterday, can be found at [www.cbcny.org](http://www.cbcny.org). Additional information on the conference is available there as well. Members of the press interested in attending the conference should call David Cohen at 212-279-2605, extension 11.

*Founded in 1932, the Citizens Budget Commission is a nonpartisan, nonprofit civic organization devoted to influencing constructive change in the finances and services of New York State and New York City governments. Further information on the Commission is available at [www.cbcny.org](http://www.cbcny.org).*

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