CITIZENS BUDGET COMMISSION

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CITIZENS BUDGET COMMISSION STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR SPITZER'S EDUCATION REFORM PROPOSALS

The Citizens Budget Commission today released the following statement supporting Governor Spitzer's plans for education reform:

> The CBC supports Governor Spitzer's plans to change the way school aid is doled out in New York State. For too long precious tax dollars have been spent according to an arcane set of formulas designed to meet political rather than student needs. It is time for New York's neediest school children to get their fair share in the form of foundation formulas that will better serve the poorest districts. New York's current funding formulas for education have produced an inequitable and inadequate result that has adversely affected the lives of too many generations of public school students.
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> Making money matter is the key. To ensure that student achievement improves, districts must be held accountable for their performance. They must employ strategies that are supported and validated by researchers. The Governor is right to require that districts with large increases be required to select from a menu of preferred options when spending the new money. This allows a measure of managerial discretion and improves the odds of student success.
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> The battle over the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit has gone on for too long. It is heartening to see the fundamental problems that provoked the lawsuit finally being tackled head on.

In 2004 the CBC convened a conference of State leaders entitled "Can New York Get an 'A' in School Finance Reform" and produced a series of research reports that describe many of New York's problems and identify solutions, including possible funding formulas and accountability enhancements similar to what the Governor is proposing. The report is available for reference at http://www.cbcny.org/CBC_School_Finance_Reform_01-05.pdf