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NEW YORK ANNOUNCES \$30 MILLION IN REIMBURSEMENTS FOR QUALIFIED STEM TEACHERS IN A MAJOR WIN FOR STUDENTS

Teach NYS Fights for \$120M for STEM Programs

April 1, 2022 – New York State Dept. of Education announced on Wednesday that it is awarding \$30 million in government reimbursements to non-public schools for the 2019-2020 school year. The latest reimbursements are part of a state program Teach NYS fought for so nonpublic schools would be reimbursed for the salaries of qualified Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) teachers for grades 3–12. This first-in-the-nation program is currently in its fifth year.

This program is a win for all New Yorkers. In addition to helping to give all of our children a better education for our future economy, this program aids in recruiting more qualified teachers, helps schools more adequately compensate those teachers, and allows for more STEM courses to be taught in nonpublic schools. This is important because New York and the entire country are currently facing a STEM teacher shortage. According to a [study](#) conducted by the National Association of Manufacturers and Deloitte, there will be 2.1 million unfilled STEM jobs nationwide by 2030.

In total, this public investment will provide \$120 million to nonpublic schools over a five-year period. Other states are following New York's lead. Since the NY program launched in 2017, a related program has followed in New Jersey, while a pilot program has been proposed in Florida.

"This is a smart investment in our future that helps prepare our students for the jobs of the 21st century. Thank you to everyone who has made this first-of-its-kind program a success, including our legislators in Albany. The work we are doing today will pay huge dividends going forward and help our students succeed," said **Maury Litwack, Executive Director of Teach Coalition.**

This innovative program helps parents achieve the goal of improving the quality of education in our state and city schools. Teach NYS led an advocacy campaign involving thousands of parents and students, and worked alongside legislators of both parties in Albany, to pass the original STEM bill in 2017. Since then, Teach NYS has successfully advocated for additional funding for this program, bringing total funding up to \$120 million over a five-year period.

In partnership with coalition members, Teach NYS not only stewarded the first STEM reimbursement program in history, but fought to equip all schools with stronger security, and worked for greater services and equitable funding for nonpublic school education in general.

"Math and science are two of the hardest areas to find quality educators. This STEM teacher reimbursement program allows us to offer teachers competitive salaries without having to raise tuition on parents. This program means that we can bring in more teachers to teach specifics, not just general STEM topics - subjects that go far beyond typical math and science. We are hoping to have a makerspace next year, and this is only possible because of this STEM funding," said **Adrienne Mittan, Executive Director of the Hebrew Academy of Long Beach.**

"We are a very small school with limited funding. This critical STEM funding helps our students to get on the path to be on par with everyone else. It freed up our budget to allow us to pay for microscopes, kits, and more, and infrastructure for the future -- such as building a computer lab and updating technological tools. That helps our school be competitive. It's a win-win for parents, students and administrators," said **Joanne Koukoulis, School Board Chair at the Dimitrios & Georgia Kaloidis Parochial School in Brooklyn.**

"All children deserve a chance to succeed, no matter what zip code they are from – and this program helps make that a reality. We have been able to hire and retain top STEM teacher talent because of this infusion of government funds, and we see the value of it every day in the classroom. It's exciting to see our students provided with opportunities they might not otherwise have and to see how much they are learning," said **Caroline Erisman, Executive Director of the Cornelia Connelly Center.**

"We are grateful to the state for honoring its commitment to an innovative program that's making a huge impact for our community. From algebra to engineering science to AP statistics and more, this program is providing thousands of New York's future leaders with the STEM training they need to thrive in the careers of tomorrow. It's incredible to see a diverse range of communities, parents and educators united for the shared purpose of investing in a brighter future for all of our students," said **Mario Ciampi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Fordham Preparatory School.**

Teach NYS advocates for quality, safe and affordable nonpublic schools. As a champion of state funding for STEM teachers, school security and other programs, it has helped deliver more than \$276 million to the state's nonpublic schools this year alone. Teach NYS is a member of the Orthodox Union's Teach Coalition that represents 90% of Jewish day school and yeshivah students nationwide. For more information, visit teachcoalition.org