



Five college football coaches on the hot seat

SPORTS, 1B

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SUNY marks upward enrollment trend



SUNY Broome celebrated the Class of 2025 at a commencement ceremony May 22, 2025 at the Visions Veterans Memorial Arena in Binghamton. JEFF MILLER, DNJ PHOTOGRAPHY/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN

Key takeaways from 2026 report

Riccardo Monico
Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

A 2026 update to SUNY's Long Term Enrollment and Financial Sustainability Report shows significant growth for the system.

According to the report, SUNY schools have seen a 6.5% increase in enrollment over the past three years, the first time enrollment has grown in three consecutive years since 2009. At the center of the report are SUNY's four ma-

major pillars — student success, research and scholarship, diversity, equity and inclusion and economic development and upward mobility — all of which have seen major strides over the past year.

SUNY is a major component of New York state's economy, boasting a \$31 billion annual economic impact each year. This year will see historic increases in state funding for the system, the highest level of investment for SUNY in more than five decades.

SUNY sees consistent enrollment growth

The first of SUNY's four driving pillars, as outlined in the report, centers on student success. SUNY's Academic Mo-

mentum Campaign, launched in 2025, seeks to improve retention and completion rates throughout SUNY schools.

As part of the campaign, an inaugural cohort of fellows was announced in February, with positions assigned to faculty and staff who will help campuses implement evidence-based strategies to increase student retention.

Campuses will develop their Academic Momentum action plans to provide specific, coordinated support for students starting in the Fall 2026 season. The program's goal is to increase retention across statistical

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160 missing children found in New York

Victoria E. Freile
New York Connect Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

Authorities say 160 missing children and teenagers have been located across New York through a series of coordinated, multi-agency recovery operations.

The effort, led by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Missing Persons Clearinghouse and the National Child Protection Task, spans three large-scale operations conducted in Westchester County, Erie County and the Capital Region.

Most recently, 43 children were found during a three-day recovery operation in Westchester County. Earlier efforts in Erie County and the Capital Region located more than 115 missing children combined. State officials said many of the children were considered runaways and were at risk of exploitation, endangerment or harm.

Children at heightened risk

Officials emphasized that children who run away are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.

"Many people don't realize that children who run away are among the most vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation, which makes urgency and coordination essential," said Kevin Branzetti, co-founder and CEO of the National Child Protection Task Force.

The children located during the most recent operation ranged in age from 8 to 17 years old at the time they were reported missing, according to DCJS.

New York State Police Superintendent Steven G. James said investigations involving missing and exploited children are complex but critical.

"Interagency operations such as this

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Hochul pledges \$150M for financially struggling cities

Emily Barnes
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Kathy Hochul's budget balancing act has begun as the governor attempts to spread the wealth to upstate New York following her pledge to give additional funding to New York City earlier this week.

Hochul announced an additional \$150 million in financial assistance for cities, towns and villages outside of New York City on Thursday, Feb. 19, four days after sharing her plans to add another \$150 billion into the budget for the city's financial woes.

"We want all of New York's municipalities to succeed, and this funding is crucial to putting all of our cities, towns and villages on stronger financial footing and allowing them to keep their residents safe and continue providing the

vital services they rely on," Hochul said in a written statement on Feb. 19.

Here's what this could mean for you.

Where is the NY money going?

Most of the newly allocated funds — \$100 million — are expected to further feed the Temporary Municipal Assistance program, which provides general purpose aid for local governments and is already expected to receive a proposed \$50 million in the fiscal year 2027 executive budget, Hochul said.

The funding will be distributed proportionately across all cities, towns and villages outside of New York City, with the exception of the cities of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers. According to Hochul, they will all receive the maximum additional amount of \$10

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New York Gov. Kathy Hochul speaks to the media at the Remington Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle Feb. 18 after she announced that the state would contribute \$16 million to the LINC, New Rochelle's project to transform Memorial Highway from a six-lane thoroughfare into a local street and linear park. The LINC will reconnect the historically Black Lincoln Park neighborhood that was split apart due to the construction of Memorial Highway.

SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS

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