



## Toppmeyer: Coaches are on the hot seat

SPORTS, 1B

# PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN

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Binghamton University's Harpur College of Arts and Sciences held its commencement ceremony for the Class of 2025 on May 17, 2025. JEFF MILLER, DNJ PHOTOGRAPHY / SPECIAL TO THE PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN

## 160 missing children located in NY

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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 are crucial, and we will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to safeguard the children of New York," James said.

### Missing children across New York

The coordinated efforts come amid thousands of missing children reports statewide.

Last year, 10,629 children under 18 were reported missing to police across New York. By the end of 2025, 1,079 cases remained active – about 10% of that year's reports.

Police said 94% of children and teens reported missing in 2025 were classified as runaways.

"Every missing child case represents a young person who deserves to be safe, supported and seen," DCJS Commissioner Rossana Rosado said in a news release. "This operation brought together an extraordinary group of law enforcement, nonprofit and private partners to share information, pursue new leads and connect children with the services they need."

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## SUNY system marks upward enrollment

### 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 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 Momentum 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

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## Will Mamdani raise NYC property taxes or tax the rich?

Emily Barnes

New York State Team  
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Gov. Kathy Hochul's last-minute state funding boost aimed at helping close New York City's budget gap seemingly did little to sway Mayor Zohran Mamdani as he continued his "tax the rich" push during his preliminary budget presentation on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Throughout his campaign, Mamdani consistently advocated for an additional city income tax of 2% on anyone earning more than \$1 million a year and an increase of the state's top corporate tax rate to 11.5%, claiming the two efforts could raise \$9 billion a year.

He asserted his main plan for reducing the city's "historic budget gap" requires just that – raising taxes on the wealthy— as well as fixing the imbalance



Gov. Kathy Hochul presented a \$260 billion budget proposal at the Capitol in Albany on Jan. 20. PROVIDED BY GOV. KATHY HOCHUL'S OFFICE

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