

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Restore the right of a community to determine its educational and spending priorities through its locally elected and accountable board of education

Reject attempts to further restrict local control of the public's schools

Relieve schools of legislative, statutory and regulatory impediments to cost-saving strategies and initiatives

➤ Reform New York's Tax Levy Cap Law

- **Repeal** the financial punishment of a **zero increase tax levy cap** the state would mete out to schools as a consequence of a defeated school budget
- **Eliminate possibility of a negative tax cap**
- **Restore** democratic principle of "**one person, one vote**", repeal super-majority requirement for school budget votes
- Include **properties covered by PILOTs** in the **tax base growth factor**
- Include **BOCES capital cost** in the local capital expense exclusion from the cap
- **Provide** that cost increases attributable to **citizen referenda** not force a **super-majority** requirement upon **tax cap-compliant** school budgets
- **Revoke** the denial of rebates to taxpayers in tax cap-compliant school districts due to non-compliance of other local governments

➤ **Reject** proposal of **state-mandated building level aid distribution** mechanism as **unwarranted state interference** into the efficient management and local governance of suburban school districts

➤ Maintain ability of school boards to present **capital bond referenda** for a vote at a date they determine to be most fiscally responsible

➤ Grant **traditional public schools** the **flexibility and relief from state regulations** as are granted to charter schools

➤ Require official **notification** to affected **school districts** in advance of **Industrial Development Agency (IDA)** action on planned projects; grant school districts formal representation on IDA boards

➤ **Maintain** requirement of a **local referendum** for the **merger of school districts**; provide **incentive aid** and **adequate transition funding** for school district consolidation

➤ **Restore** to locally accountable BOCES boards of education the responsibility to determine the **District Superintendent's salary** and benefits

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, Inc.



YEAR 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association seeks legislative action that would protect and sustain Long Island's highly regarded public schools.

- **Shield Long Island schools and taxpayers from negative impact resulting from capping of State and Local Tax Deductions on federal tax filings (SALT-D)**
- **Honor state's promise to provide substantive mandate relief**
- **Properly fund the state's share of escalating costs for the demonstrable increases in student mental health and safety needs and the educational needs of English Language Learners**
- **Address deficiencies in Foundation Aid Formula in order to assure adequate funding for the Long Island region**
- **Provide sufficient state funding to cover established current year costs, new state mandates and loss of local revenues attributable to New York's school tax levy cap**

N-SSBA Officers

President
Ronald J. Ellerbe

Suffolk Vice President
John Verdone

Nassau Vice President
Michael Kelly

Secretary-Treasurer
Steven Gellar

Finance Committee
Steven Gellar, *Chairperson*

Legislation Committee
Robert Vecchio, *Chairperson*
Michael Jaime, *Vice Chairperson*

Committee Members

Susan Bergtraum
Nicholas Ciappetta
Walter Denzler, Jr.
Betty DeSabato
Liz Dion
Lawrence Greenstein
Phil Heckler
Jim Kaden
Fred Langstaff
Guy Leggio
Juan Leon
Molly Licalzi
Susan Lipman
Peggy Marengi
Kristin Ochtera
Mary Jo O'Hagan
Karyn Reid
Patricia Rudd
Regina Rule
Brian Sales
Jeanette Santos
Robert "B.A." Schoen
Norman Wagner

Staff

Lorraine Deller, *Executive Director*
Vivian Molitor, *Office Manager*

Office

219 Bedford Avenue
P.O. Box 385
Bellmore, NY 11710
Phone: 516-781-2053
Fax: 516-679-0401
E-mail: info@nssba.org

Long Island school districts face mounting challenges in addressing the unprecedented escalation in needs of today's student population.

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association calls upon the state to fulfill its obligation to adequately fund public education in order that boards of education may fulfill their responsibility to secure the educational and fiscal integrity of their communities' schools.

SCHOOL FINANCE

It is the joint responsibility of the State and its localities to fund New York's public schools. To maintain the public's confidence and to address impediments to the efficient utilization of taxpayer funds, the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association calls upon the State to:

- Mitigate the negative impact of cap on **State and Local Tax Deductibility (SALT-D)** on Long Island schools and property taxpayers
- Establish that public funds should support core public education and not be diverted for private school vouchers, education or tuition tax credits or towards the expansion of services and financial assistance to private, parochial and charter schools
- Provide sufficient state funding to cover established current year costs, new state initiatives and loss of local revenues attributable to New York's school tax levy cap
- Utilize regional cost and wealth factors that more accurately balance state aid distributions with a community's ability to pay
- Address deficiencies in the Foundation Aid Formula that deny Long Island an equitable share of state aid; eliminate disparity between high and low wealth districts by leveling up
- Reject proposals to consolidate and cap expense-driven aids; maintain and fully fund BOCES, transportation and private excess cost as separate, expense-based aids
- Provide current year funding for costs related to increases in enrollment of English Language Learners (ELL) and students with special needs
- Provide targeted funding to assist schools' compliance with increased requirements under PL 154 for reporting and delivery of English Language Learners (ELL) and bilingual education services
- Rectify the state's underfunding of Long Island's Pre-K needs; expand sustainable Pre-K funding to all interested school districts; provide maximum flexibility to districts to determine their Pre-K options; aid Pre-K transportation at same level as K-12

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Increase state's share of costs to address escalating costs for demonstrable increases in student mental health needs
- Increase state funding for school safety and security measures
- Require consent of school districts for use of school buildings as polling places
- Fund Recovery High School on Long Island to be administered by BOCES

MANDATE RELIEF

- Honor the state's promise to accompany its local tax levy cap with substantive relief from costly mandates
- Require that all Bills contain a full disclosure of local cost and tax impact as determined by the Office of the State Comptroller
- Delay implementation date of new mandates until year following next school budget vote in order that costs not be taken from current school program
- Provide targeted funding to assist compliance with PL 154 increased requirements for services to English Language Learners (ELL) and bi-lingual education
- Mitigate special education costs by conforming state laws and regulations with those of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Amend the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law's Triborough Doctrine, ending automatic step and lane increases beyond expiration of a contract
- Repeal the wasteful, arcane Wicks Law that continues to drive up construction costs; allow schools to utilize Dormitory Authority or Design-Build funding options

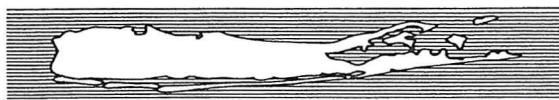
ENABLE GREATER EFFICIENCIES

- Promptly process and release monies due school districts for Smart Schools Bond Act projects
- Provide adequate funding to facilitate NYSED approvals of capital project plans
- Increase the allowable fund balance limit above the current level
- Permit school districts and BOCES to establish reserve funds for Teachers Retirement System (TRS)
- Permit school districts to create tax stabilization reserve funds
- Lift cap on reimbursement of BOCES Aid for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers in order to lower tuition costs for local school districts

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW (APPR)

- Return responsibility for evaluating teachers and principals to local control
- Eliminate mandate to use state assessments in APPR or the use of any single high-stakes test as the sole measure of student or school achievement; recognize validity of multiple measures of assessment
- Delink student assessments and staff evaluations from state aid; eliminate potential fiscal penalty for not meeting 95% student participation rate
- Eliminate mandate to employ independent observers for evaluations

NASSAU SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.



**YEAR 2019
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association
calls upon Long Island's Delegation to the 116th Congress
to commit its full support to measures that honor and protect the investments
Long Islanders have made in building and sustaining a region with highly regarded public schools**

FEDERAL ISSUES

- Fully **restore deductibility of state and local taxes (SALT-D)** on federal tax filings; advance and promote **H.R.188 (SALT Deductibility Act)** and **H.R. 257 (retroactively restore full SALT deduction)**
- Substantially increase funding for **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** in order that Congress may move towards **honoring its original intention of fully funding 40% of excess costs**
- Recognize **regional cost and wealth factors** in determining federal aid distribution; renew efforts to **create cost-of-living adjustments** to the **federal tax code**
- Provide **immediate and ongoing federal resources** for districts experiencing increases in **enrollment of unaccompanied minors and Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE)**
- Direct significant increases in federal funding to address **school safety** initiatives, including **mental health** and the **social and emotional needs** of students
- Prioritize federal investments in **Title I and Title II** which are critical for proper implementation of **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**
- Protect funding for **school-based Medicaid**
- Protect school access to online materials and resources; support **net neutrality** and **21st Century Internet Act**
- Maintain **Title IV funding** for **21st Century Community Learning Centers** that provide critically needed after-school programs and services to promote **safe and drug-free** alternatives
- Defeat all attempts to establish **private school vouchers, tuition tax credits** and the **expansion of services and financial assistance** to **private, parochial or charter schools**; oppose redirection of **Impact Aid Program** towards **Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)**

**Ensure that local school districts have greater flexibility to make educationally sound decisions
and be free of mandates that unnecessarily or counterproductively
hinder school districts from achieving their goals**