



2023-24 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

THE LENS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION






Please recognize that public school districts in NYS continue to operate in an environment that provides challenges in supporting and educating students. Districts must manage ongoing restrictions on funding through state-imposed caps, outdated funding streams and changes to calendars and curricula among other challenges, while working to meet the ever-increasing needs of our students.

We raise this to provide additional context to our priorities and to ensure that legislators and our leaders understand the challenging environment in which we operate.



Focus on Funding

-  Revise the **tax levy cap calculation**: carryover unused levy, account for enrollment growth, exempt non-academic expenses (pension, health care, security)
-  Maintain full funding of **Foundation Aid** and commit to updating data & formula





Focus on Flexibility

-  Ensure school districts have flexible resources for student **social-emotional learning and mental health support**
-  Assist in funding cybersecurity, SROs, security personnel and facility upgrades through state, local counties & municipalities, and school districts to enhance **school safety**
-  Loosen restrictions on **PreK aid** so districts can target programs at underserved populations, allow for location and timing flexibility, & increase per pupil funds
-  Provide funding & assistance for **zero-emission buses** & related infrastructure
-  Allow flexibility in use of state and federal **school meal funding**
-  Support role of NYSED and local districts in development and provision of **curriculum and educational resources**





Focus on Long Term

-  Fund long term projects to ensure **climate resilience** for school buildings, including flood infrastructure and air conditioning
-  Permit **additional reserves** for long term financial planning, including ability to reserve for other post-employment benefit (OPEB) liabilities

Focus on Staffing

-  Review certifications to ensure appropriate **staffing of teachers and school-based mental health professionals**
-  Continue to look at barriers to **training, recruitment, and retention of teachers**
-  Extend **waiver of income cap** for public sector retirees working for school districts
-  Improve **civil service testing and hiring process** to ensure timely hiring of quality candidates

Focus on Special Services

-  Protect **Special Act School Districts** (SASDs): give prompt attention to results of tuition rate-setting study, award interim plus tuition rate on July 1st, include security as a direct care cost
-  Support **BOCES**: increase salary cap for CTE teachers, provide flexibility in timing of annual BOCES budget vote
-  Augment the availability of **community mental health services** and providers for students when in crisis
-  Ensure availability of quality **special education** providers for out of district placements and reinstate NYS portion of CSE residential placements