

## Mandate Relief

- ◆ Honor the State's promise to accompany its local tax levy cap with significant **relief from costly mandates**.
- ◆ **Delay** the implementation of requirements for zero emissions buses.
- ◆ Require that **all bills** contain a **full disclosure of local cost and tax impact**.
- ◆ Cease the practice of **adding new regulations and mandates** in an **Omnibus State Budget Bill**.
- ◆ **Oppose** any legislative changes/mandates to curriculum.
- ◆ Delay the **implementation date** of **new mandates** until at least the following **fiscal year**.
- ◆ Mitigate special education costs by **conforming state laws** and regulations with those of the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**.
- ◆ **Restore** to locally accountable **BOCES Boards of Education** the responsibility to determine the **District Superintendent's salary** and benefits.
- ◆ Index **BOCES aid** for inflation annually.
- ◆ Amend the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law's Triborough Doctrine, **ending automatic step and lane increases beyond the expiration of a contract**.
- ◆ **Repeal** the **Wicks Law**, that **drives up construction costs**; allow schools to utilize the Dormitory Authority or Design-Build funding options.

## Enable Greater Efficiencies

- ◆ **Enable** schools to maintain an **unrestricted fund balance up to 10%** commensurate with other governmental entities.
- ◆ **Extend State Aid** for instructional days that begin **prior to September 1**.
- ◆ Maintain the school board authority to present a **capital bond referendum** vote at a date it determines to be fiscally responsible.
- ◆ Revoke the **Building Level Aid Distribution Report** mandate.
- ◆ Support **Civil Service reforms** to improve workforce recruitment and retention.



# N-SSBA

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association

**Serving Long Island School Boards Since 1959**

## **New York State Legislative Priorities for Public Education 2024**

*Sustaining Long Island's Legacy  
of Quality  
Public Education*

Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Inc.  
P.O. Box 385  
Bellmore, NY 11710  
Phone 516-781-2053 Fax 516-679-0401  
Email: [Info@nssba.org](mailto:Info@nssba.org)  
[www.nssba.org](http://www.nssba.org)

## School Finance

*It is the joint responsibility of the State and its local school districts 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:*

- ◆ **RESTORE THE "SAVE HARMLESS" PROVISION IN THE FOUNDATION AID FORMULA.**
- ◆ Provide NYSED with **immediate funding** necessary to perform a **full study** on how best to **reform the Foundation Aid Formula.**
- ◆ Fully fund and **update the Foundation Aid Formula** and address deficiencies in the formula that **ensure Long Island an equitable share of state aid**; eliminate disparity between high and low wealth districts by leveling up; incorporate the **ALICE** (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) **measure** as an accurate reflection of a community's wealth.
- ◆ Provide additional targeted **funding** to assist schools' compliance with increased requirements under PL 154 for delivery of **bilingual education**, services to **English Language Learners (ELL)** and **Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE).**
- ◆ Provide **current year funding** for increased costs related to **mid-year enrollment** of **English Language Learners (ELL)** and **Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE).**
- ◆ Approve the full funding of the **Healthy School Meals for All NYS Students initiative.**
- ◆ Ensure that **public funds support core public education** and are not diverted to **private school vouchers, education or tuition tax credits** or the **expansion of services** and financial assistance to **private, parochial and charter schools.**
- ◆ Rectify the state's underfunding of **Long Island's Pre-K needs**; expand sustainable Pre-K funding with maximum flexibility; **aid Pre-K transportation** equivalent to K-12.
- ◆ **Authorize** school districts to **borrow** from their **existing reserve funds** to cover **temporary** cashflow **shortfalls** due to the annual **delay** between the levy and **collection of taxes** Senate bill (S0763).
- ◆ Approve **legislation** to fully **reimburse districts** for all investments in **zero emission buses**, including all **infrastructure.**

## School Health, Safety & Security

- ◆ Adequately invest in **student and staff mental health needs and services.**
- ◆ Require the **consent** of school districts for the use of **school buildings as polling places.**
- ◆ Sustain funding for **Long Island's Recovery High School.**
- ◆ Support legislation that would require **school security personnel** to have **specialized training and certification.**
- ◆ Provide **sustainable funding** to assist schools in making continuous investments to deal with **ongoing cyber security needs.**

## Reform New York's Tax Levy Cap Law

- ◆ Set the **minimum** tax cap allowable growth factor at **2%** to enable school budgets to weather inflation.
- ◆ Eliminate the possibility of a **negative tax cap.**
- ◆ Establish an **exclusion for School Safety** expenditures.
- ◆ **Repeal** the **super-majority** requirement for school budgets that exceed the tax levy cap.
- ◆ Exclude the **costs of a citizen referendum** which would pierce a **compliant tax cap budget proposal.**
- ◆ Include properties covered by **PILOTs** in the tax base growth factor.
- ◆ Allow **rebates to taxpayers** in tax cap compliant school districts regardless of other local governments exceeding their tax levy cap.

## Charter School Reforms

- ◆ Eliminate **SUNY's authority** to process, approve and renew **charter school applications** and have **SED** handle all **approvals.**
- ◆ Establish new charter school funding stream to **hold districts harmless** the losses inflicted on students in districts impacted by a charter school.
- ◆ Establish **equivalent accountability** and transparency requirements for **charter schools.**