



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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TO: Long Island Senators and Assemblymembers

FROM: Jeannette Santos, President
Jim Kaden, Legislation Committee Chair

RE: District Superintendent Salary Caps

For many years, the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association has had as a high priority the elimination of the cap on the salaries of the District Superintendents. On Long Island the shortage of applicants for administrative positions has generated widespread concern.

The demands upon the District Superintendents from local components are increasing and their state roles have expanded substantially. The state imposed salary caps have failed to recognize these increasing demands and responsibilities and have made it near impossible for the BOCES in our region to attract and retain outstanding educational leaders for their critically important programs.

This is not “just a BOCES issue”, but one that affects all districts that are dependent upon the vital services of our region’s BOCES.

Each year that passes without confronting the unintended consequences of this state imposed cap exacerbates the eventual increase that will be needed to address the reality of the situation. Compounding the problem for Long Island is the gap created by 12 years of a cap that does not acknowledge the impact on salaries of regional cost differences.

A dozen years ago, the Legislature saw fit to remove from the elected BOCES boards the responsibility to set the District Superintendent’s salary. In doing so, it assumed accountability for the consequences of salary decisions. It is now the responsibility of the Governor and Legislature to solve Long Island’s revolving-door BOCES leadership situation.