



2018-2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SUMMARY – FALL 2018

SCHOOL SAFETY

- Amend regulations related to public school buildings as polling places.
- Create a School Security expense-driven aid category.
- Expedite the Smart Schools Bond Act funding review process.
- Provide a pathway for retired law enforcement to become school security individuals.
- Amend relevant sections of Criminal Procedure law dealing with bail setting to include red-flag provisions.

SUSTAINABLE AND PREDICTABLE SCHOOL FUNDING

- Develop a multiyear, formula-driven School Aid.
- Implement prudent modifications to the tax levy cap.
 1. Fixed 2 percent tax cap with exemptions.
 2. Exemptions to the tax cap:
 - a. New government mandates.
 - b. Safety initiatives.
 3. Eliminate negative tax levy caps.
- Allow for a Teacher Retirement System Reserve as a tool for fiscal planning.
- Include properties covered by PILOTS in the tax base growth factor that is used in determining a school district's tax levy cap.

PROVIDING THE HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION OUR REGION EXPECTS AND OUR STUDENTS DESERVE

APPR:

“It’s About the Narrative, Not the Number”

- Return the responsibility for evaluating teachers and principals to the local level.
- Amend legislation to allow a revamped APPR system.

SUPPORTING SHIFTING STUDENT NEEDS

- The share of state aid directed to Long Island (12.2 percent) is less than the percentage of students educated on Long Island (17.3 percent).
- The state share of school funding on Long Island is just 24.5 percent compared to 42.5 percent in the rest of the state.
- The purchasing power of \$1,000 in upstate New York is the equivalent of only \$702 on Long Island.
- Almost half of Long Island's student population resides in districts with below-average wealth.
- In the past 10 years, demographic shifts have existed relative to increased poverty and increases in the number of students who are English language learners.
- The state aid share to Long Island needs to be adjusted to support the increasing needs of the students in Long Island schools.