

# HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE



New York State  
School Boards  
Association

## New York State Legislators must:

- **Pass the Budget and reject state aid cuts proposed in the Executive Budget.** This will preserve educational programs, relieve local taxpayers and prevent further economic decline through large scale lay offs in public education.
- **Support the full funding of reimbursable expenses** (BOCES, transportation aid, building aid and special education). Districts have already paid for these programs in full and await state reimbursement - as promised.
- **Pay school aid on time.**
- **Oppose any cost shifts onto school districts** (including the governor's proposal to have districts cover cost increases of mandated pre-school special education over 2% and replacement of School Resource Officers.)
- State leaders must lobby federal representatives to **ensure continued support for federal funding of public education.** Additionally, make sure that the state **continues to direct federal stimulus funds toward public education.** Do not allow these funds to be diverted to lesser state priorities.
- **Support real and substantive mandate relief for school districts.** Wick's Law exemption, removal of automatic step increases in Triborough, and procurement reform including allowing local governments to "piggyback" on contracts let by other states and other local governments or cooperative purchasing entities.
- **OPPOSE all UNFUNDED MANDATES!**
- **Support opportunities for districts to increase shared and cooperative services** (including the ability to take advantage of online and national purchasing programs, and to share services and programs with municipalities, community colleges when prudent.)

BE THE CHANGE  
for kids

# HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE



New York State  
School Boards  
Association

- **Support the creation of additional reserve funds that will allow districts to better plan from year to year.** (The Comptroller and legislators have proposed TRS and tax stabilization reserve funds and OPEB trusts, as well as freeing EBALR funds for general use.) – we urge the passage of legislation for the creation and authorization of these reserve funds including S 7534, Johnson C, A 11038, Abbate - authorizing local governments to establish trusts for OPEB costs such as health care benefits for retirees. OPEB costs are expected to approach the costs of total payroll within the next decade. Schools need to prepare for these rising costs necessitating these reserve funds. They need the ability and necessary framework for protecting their local taxpayers as well as educational programs and personnel from budgetary evisceration and overwhelming tax burdens that will arise in the absence of being able to plan for these rising costs.
- **Exemption from the MTA Tax for school districts – Rejection of the MTA small business mentoring program** - legislators must exempt schools from the MTA payroll tax, a state cost shift and blatant abrogation of fiscal responsibility off of the state and MTA and onto the backs of schools and at the expense of children’s education opportunities and reject legislation (S 5987-B, Sampson, A 8681-B, Wright) which would have taxpayers pay for the education of for-profit businesses by allowing the MTA to fund a mentoring program which would pay for successful, for-profit construction management companies to teach smaller, for-profit construction companies how to succeed at winning public contracts!
- **Support legislation that allows for the combination of instructional material aid categories** to allow districts the ability to determine how use of that aid best serves the educational program.
- **Support the continuation of the current Special Education Summer School funding formula (80% funding).** Changing the funding formula threatens this vital program for our neediest students.

**BE THE CHANGE**  
for kids