

BE THE CHANGE for kids

2010 NYSSBA State Issues Conference Talking Points

New York State Legislators must:

- **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 Governor's 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.
- **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.)
- **Support the creation of additional reserve funds that will allow districts to better plan from year to year.** (The Comptroller has proposed TRS and tax stabilization reserve funds, as well as freeing EBALR funds for general use.)
- **Support real and substantive mandate relief for school districts.** (Wick's Law exemption, removal of automatic step increases in Triborough, paperwork and reporting reduction (S 3874-A, Oppenheimer) and exemption from the MTA Tax.)
- State leaders must lobby federal representatives to **ensure continued support for federal funding of public education.**



BE THE CHANGE for kids

- **Continue to direct federal stimulus funds toward public education.** Do not allow these funds to be diverted to lesser state priorities.
- **Support timely passage of early retirement incentive legislation** to allow districts the best opportunity to plan their budgets. (S 6712, Savino)
- **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.
- **Support the use of a 5 year rolling average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for contingency budgets.** (S 5822-A, Oppenheimer, A 8852-A, Nolan)
- **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.)
- **Oppose the replacement of locally elected school boards** in favor of mayoral control in the Rochester City School District.

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to use local examples to support these points and *NOT* simply discuss local issues.

