Four County School Boards Association

2019 Federal Positions

As advocates for the 39,000 students in the Finger Lakes region of New York State, the members of the Four County School Boards Association set forth the following recommended legislative actions:

♦ Denotes items with no direct Federal fiscal impact

Student Issues

Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA/ESEA)

- ♦ Advocate for implementation to follow the intent of the law
- ♦ Eliminate the 95 % test participation rate as a trigger for withholding funding

Early Childhood

- ♦ Support voluntary, locally-determined early childhood education programs with a separate, dedicated funding stream

Child Nutrition

- ♦ Provide local districts with the flexibility to operate school lunch programs in a way that meets local needs
- ♦ Involve school board members in any process to amend school lunch and breakfast program nutrition standards
- ◊ Fully fund all requirements under the Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act (HHKA)
- ♦ Restore "offered" vs "served"

Unaccompanied Minors

- ◊ Provide on-going resources for districts experiencing influx In the enrollment of unaccompanied minors
- ♦ Ensure the performance of newly arrived unaccompanied minors on state assessments does not negatively impact overall district performance

Reaffirm the Role of Local School Boards

- ♦ Ensure the Executive branch does not exceed its authority
- ♦ Recognize the local education agency as the principal democratic governance body in determining how children are educated
- ♦ Restore maximum flexibility to local school boards, freeing them from unnecessary mandates

Funding Issue Corrections by Legislation

School Choice Vouchers and Tuition Tax Credits

- ♦ Oppose diverting public funds to non-public schools and the charter industry
- ♦ Support existing, evidence based public school choice options
- ♦ Hold all schools receiving public funds to the same financial and academic accountability standards

Fulfill the Promise with Sufficient, Sustained Funding

- ◊ Increase federal investments in Title 1, IDEA , ESSA and related education programs
- ◊ Ensure federal funding flows directly to local school districts rather than through state education departments
- ◊ Oppose funding through competitive grants
- ◊ Prevent another round of across-the-board cuts (sequestration)
- ◊ Retain current funding thru Impact Aid and hold districts harmless from revenue lost through taxes not paid by Sovereign Indian Nations

School Based Medicaid & Healthcare Reform

- ◊ Continue payment of the federal portion for medical services provided to public school students
- ◊ Reject proposals to convert Medicaid to a per-capita grant program
- ◊ Changes to healthcare should include amendments to the Cadillac Tax

Federal Income Tax Reform SALT

- ◊ Retain the state and local tax deduction option

F-1 Visas

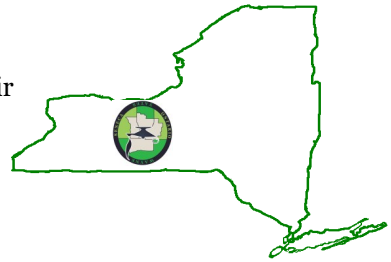
- ♦ Allow international, tuition paying students with F-1 visas to complete four years of public high school, which is currently allowed for private schools

Bill Buchko - Legislative Committee Co-Chair

Robert Groom - Legislative Committee Co-Chair

Tom Nespeca - Executive Director

Beth Thomas - President



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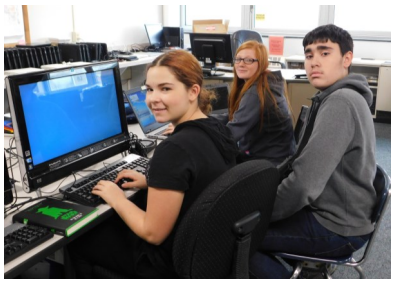
BLOOMFIELD CANANDAIGUA GANANDA HONEOYE LYONS MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE
MARCUS WHITMAN MARION NEWARK NORTH ROSE-WOLCOTT PENN YAN PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS
SENECA FALLS SODUS SOUTH SENECA WAYNE WAYNE-FINGER LAKES BOCES WILLIAMSON

Our Children Are Our Future **Education is the Key**

Four County School Boards Association

THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN IS THE KEY TO OUR NATION'S FUTURE

School boards in the Four County region of New York State (Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties) are committed to providing high quality education for all students. The success of this effort is dependent upon a strong, supportive partnership between local communities and the state and federal governments. Most funding for education comes, appropriately, from state and local sources. The federal government's role has historically been to supplement these resources with funding targeted toward specific needs, particularly those that provide equal opportunity and access, and are important resources in support of public education.



An educated citizenry is essential if we are to retain our position as a global leader. To prosper, we must provide the opportunity for all children to learn and be prepared to make meaningful contributions to our nation's success. Reliable and sustained financial support for our public schools, where the majority of our nation's children are educated, is critical. Our schools continue to experience dramatic increases in the cost of health insurance premiums, pension contributions, and services for children with disabilities. We must provide intervention services for "at-risk" students and expanded opportunities for higher achievers. Meeting unfunded or underfunded mandates places an additional demand on local district resources and a burden on local taxpayers. Our New York State districts have the added constraint of budgeting within the tax cap imposed by the Governor and the Legislature. All of these factors have a greater impact on the low-wealth/high-need school districts that make up the Four County area.

We must continue to invest in our future by providing quality public education. Congress must focus on a long-term solution to funding education in America and oppose any policies that would weaken our public schools. This will help insure our students' success in the global marketplace and also help strengthen America's economy. Necessary funding must accompany all federal mandates. Past promises must be kept!

Support Public Education **Support Academic Achievement** **Support Our Children**

The Four County School Boards Association is comprised of *mostly rural, low wealth, high need school districts which are* located within the New York State Counties of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates. Situated in the Finger Lakes, the area educates 39,000 students (NYSED) and represents 262,302 community members (2010 U.S. Census).

The organization strives "to strengthen the leadership skills and advocacy efforts of its members by setting high standards in the areas of board development, legislative activity and opportunities to come together to share concerns and successes." The Association represents its member school boards to legislative and regulatory bodies at the local, state, and national levels.

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