Advocacy 2020

Eastern Suffolk BOCES develops an Advocacy Program on an annual basis. The program outlines proposed legislative and regulatory changes that the organization has embraced and has chosen to promote. We look forward to the upcoming legislative session and the existing opportunities for change. We extend our appreciation to the Board of Regents for recognizing the importance of BOCES as a provider of regional services.

Additional information regarding Advocacy 2020 can be obtained from the Chief Operating Officer, Julie Davis Lutz, Ph.D., at (631) 687-3001.

Advocacy 2020 is established in alignment with our mission:

Eastern Suffolk BOCES, an inclusive educational cooperative of 51 Long Island school districts, provides regional leadership and advocacy, direct instruction, management, and support through quality, cost-effective instructional programs, and shared services. These programs and services maximize inclusive educational and career opportunities and equitable access for Long Island’s diverse community promoting lifelong learning for both children and adults, to achieve excellence and enhance the operational effectiveness of the region.

The Priorities of Eastern Suffolk BOCES

Eastern Suffolk BOCES does not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, or candidate for enrollment on the basis of sex, gender, race, color, religion or creed, age, weight, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, transgender status, military or veteran status, domestic violence victim status, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or any other classification protected by Federal, State, or local law. ESBOCES also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding the implementation of the above laws should be directed to either of the ESBOCES Civil Rights Compliance Officers at ComplianceOfficers@esboces.org: the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, 631-687-3029, or the Associate Superintendent for Educational Services, 631-687-3056, 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, NY 11772. Inquiries may also be addressed to the Office for Civil Rights at the US Department of Education, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, 646-428-3800, OCR.NewYork@ed.gov.
Where BOCES Aid Goes

BOCES Aid is an expense-driven aid available to all districts on a wealth-sensitive basis. In our region, nearly 76% of the aid is distributed to 18 school districts that fall below the state average in wealth. The balance is spread over our other 33 districts. This aid supports vital regionalization of services, the implementation of the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and efficiencies.

ESBOCES Community Legislative Committee

ESBOCES community members are invited to participate in a committee to learn about the issues impacting school districts and BOCES, and how to advocate for positive change. Students and adults attend monthly informative meetings and are committed to work together to benefit our community by learning about, and becoming involved in, the legislative process.

Strengthen BOCES Role as a Regional Service Provider

Equitable Educational Opportunities

Eastern Suffolk BOCES continues its efforts to promote the role of BOCES in educating and supporting our diverse communities of reflective, lifelong learners regardless of background, zip code, first language, or disability as supported by:

- Eastern Suffolk BOCES Task Force on Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity (DEI)
- Long Island Consortium for Excellence and Equity (LICEE)
- Efforts to recruit and retain a high quality diverse workforce
- Career Fair for Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Educators

Career and Technical Education

High quality CTE programs create viable pathways for students entering industries which are facing a shortage of skilled workers and are vital to the Long Island economy.

- Lift the cap on reimbursement of BOCES aid related to CTE programs

Safe and Secure Schools

A comprehensive approach to school safety that addresses the complexity of the issues is imperative. We support:

- Funding for school-based mental health and social/emotional learning initiatives, including education related to substance use/abuse
- Funding to support the development and implementation of school safety programs
- Continued financial support for coordinated safety and response efforts across law enforcement agencies, schools, and municipalities
- Funding for increased mandates related to data privacy and resources for cyber security

Update the Foundation Aid Formula

The commitment to a formula based on adequacy, equity, predictability, flexibility, and transparency must be renewed.

- Re-evaluate the per-pupil foundation amount
- Review and update the formula weightings for poverty (direct certification), disability, enrollment growth, English Language Learners, and other factors
- Restructure the Regional Cost Index

Guest speakers have included New York State Senator Monica R. Martinez, New York State Senator Phil Boyle, and New York State Assemblyman Doug Smith. Committee meetings are live streamed at https://www.youtube.com/easternsuffolkboces and are recorded.