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.

Advocacy 2023
The Priorities of Eastern Suffolk BOCES

Advocacy 2023
Eastern Suffolk BOCES develops an Advocacy Program on an annual basis. The program outlines proposed legislative and regulatory changes that the organization has embraced, chosen to promote, and aligns with our mission. 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 2023 can be obtained from the Chief Operating Officer, Ryan Ruf, at (631) 687-3001.

www.esboces.org
Eastern Suffolk BOCES does not discriminate against any employee, student, 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 school districts on a wealth-sensitive basis. In our region, nearly 65% of the aid is distributed to 15 school districts that fall below the state average in wealth. The balance is spread over our other 36 school districts. This aid supports a wide array of inclusive services designed to meet the needs of school districts and facilitate partnerships with the community.

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, government and issues important to our community.

Guest speakers have included Brookhaven Town Councilman Michael A. Loguercio, Jr. and Career and Technical Education graduate and public education advocate Joseph Baez.

Strengthen BOCES Role as a Regional Service Provider

Regional Support for Equitable Educational Opportunities

The commitment to equitable opportunities for all students includes, but is not limited to:

- Digital Equity and Literacy to support students, parents, and school districts to engage in remote learning resulting in educational equity
- Technical assistance and professional development for ML/ELL (Multilingual Learner/English Language Learner) educators
- Advocacy services and academic support to students impacted by poverty and homelessness
- Access to high-quality Career and Technical Education to advance student learning

Healthy and Safe Schools

A comprehensive approach to school safety and student health that addresses current issues is imperative.

- Improve funding to address current student mental and physical health issues
- Fund free universal school meal programs and enhance flexibility of meal delivery
- Fund necessary resources related to data privacy and cybersecurity
- Permanently suspend the earning cap for retired law enforcement to serve as resource officers

Inclusive Educational Opportunities and Workforce Initiatives

Eastern Suffolk BOCES furthers its efforts to educate and support our diverse communities.

- Parent-Family Advisory Council for DEI
- High-quality regional offerings consistent with Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CRSE)
- Supported Employment Program that provides training and job placement for adults with disabilities
- ESBOCES Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) Advisory Council
- Recruitment, retention, and support for a high-quality, diverse workforce
- Career Fair for Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Educators
- Services that provide in-district professional learning and support around issues of diversity, equity, and inclusivity

Aid for Public Education

- A state aid system that is dependable, predictable, and responsive to the existing educational environment
- Preserve the expense-based aid structure and fully fund these essential reimbursements
- Strengthen access to Career and Technical Education by increasing caps on BOCES salaries that have not been adjusted in 30 years

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