

TALKING POINTS

Advocacy Day 2021

How might these points be specific to you as a BOCES employee or student?

Subject: Uneven distribution of state aid

- The governor has proposed a \$2.2 billion increase in the state operating fund for New York State for the 2021-22 school year, but Long Island is receiving a smaller share than the rest of the state.
 - LI – 2.3%
 - New York City – 13.3 %
 - Rest of the state – 5.2%
- If the funds were to be distributed evenly, Long Island would receive an additional \$191 million.
- Adequate funding will assist our school districts to:
 - Address the complexity of issues related to public education and COVID-19
 - Provide High Quality Career & Technical Education and other programming
 - Provide programs that promote equitable education opportunities for diverse communities
 - Provide school-based mental health and social/emotional learning initiatives
 - Develop and implement school safety programs
 - Implement mandates related to data privacy and cyber security

Subject: The consolidation of 11 expense-based aid categories

- The governor has proposed consolidating expense-based aids such as Transportation Aid, Instructional Materials and BOCES Aid, and then capping them based on an inflation factor as opposed to usage.
- Would negatively impact most districts by reducing the amount of aid they would receive
- These aid categories support critical functions such transporting students to and from school
- This includes capping aid to districts that encourage them to send students to BOCES Career and Technical Education Programs and other BOCES programs and services
- The existing cap on the CTE instructional salary eligible for BOCES Aid already reduces the ability of school districts to send their students to high-quality CTE programs (has remained fixed at \$30,000 since 1992).

Subject: Healthy and Safe Schools

- Support and funding to address the complexity of the issues related to public education and COVID-19
- Funding for mental health and social/emotional learning initiatives, including education related to substance use/abuse
- Funding for mandates related to data privacy and resources for cyber security