Advocacy 2021
The Priorities of Eastern Suffolk BOCES

Advocacy 2021
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 2021 can be obtained from the Chief Operating Officer, Julie Davis Lutz, Ph.D., at (631) 687-3001.
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 73% 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 school districts. This aid supports vital services in the region, the implementation of the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and operational 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.

The committee continues to meet and function virtually. Guest speakers have included former New York State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle; Spotlight on Long Island Schools Radio Host and Board President of William Floyd Union Free School District Robert Vecchio; and Councilman and Deputy Supervisor for the Town of Brookhaven Daniel J. Panico.

Strengthen BOCES Role as a Regional Service Provider

Regional Support for Equitable Educational Opportunities

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

- Digital Equity and Literacy to support students, parents, and school districts as a result of remote learning during the pandemic
- Enhanced communication with multilingual parents, students, and educators by translating public documents and offering in-person translation services into languages other than English
- Technical assistance and professional development for English Language Learner (ELL) educators
- Provision of services and outreach to ELLs during the pandemic
- Advocacy services and academic support to students impacted by poverty and homelessness

Healthy and Safe Schools

A comprehensive approach to school safety that addresses current issues is imperative. We support:

- Addressing the complexity of issues related to public education and COVID-19
- Regional support for school-based and coordinated COVID-19 testing
- Funding for school-based mental health and social/emotional learning initiatives, including education related to substance use/abuse
- Flexible grant funding to support the development and implementation of school safety programs
- Funding for increased mandates related to data privacy and resources for cyber security

Inclusive 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 Council on Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity (DEI)
- Parent-Family Advisory Council for DEI
- High-quality regional offerings consistent with Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CRSE)
- Efforts to recruit and retain a high-quality diverse workplace
- Career Fair for Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Educators

A new position at ESBOCES has been created to focus on this work to support an ethnically diverse environment.

Aid for Public Education

- A state aid system that is dependable, predictable, and responsive to the existing educational environment
- Need for federal funding to support K-12 public education.

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