



Serious educational and social issues have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 Pandemic. These issues are not new, but current conditions have magnified the challenges of providing the sound, equitable, public education guaranteed by the Constitution of New York State. Education is more than curriculum and instruction and includes mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, safety, access to broadband, and nutrition beyond the school lunch. These issues coincide with a time of severe financial strain for districts and our state. Your advocacy is integral in making the New York education the premiere system we owe all children. As always, your support is both critical and greatly appreciated.

2021 State Positions

The Four County School Boards Association, representing 21 school district boards of education in Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, and Yates counties, takes the role of school governance and advocacy seriously. The Association supports the following positions and seeks your assistance in achieving these goals.

Equity and Predictability in Funding

- ◆ Use federal monies earmarked for Covid-19-related expenses to supplement, not supplant, the New York State budget.
- ◆ Provide state aid as agreed for all aidable expenses including transportation of meals for students.
- ◆ As also strongly urged by NYSSBA and NYSCOSS, do NOT support mid-year cuts in school funding, but instead, help schools achieve fiscal stability.
- ◆ Ensure predictability in the budget.
- ◆ Work to secure federal funding for Covid-19 relief consistently and not as a “one-and-done” action. We urge you to advocate for President Biden’s ongoing substantive assistance throughout the pandemic. Along with Governor Cuomo and NYSSBA, we agree that New York needs the help of the federal government to continue educating our children effectively by covering Covid-19-related expenses.

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Mental Health of Students and Adults

- ◆ Provide financial and human resources to support the mental health of students and adults in school districts.
- ◆ Provide for ongoing, on-site support for children in crisis.
- ◆ Provide resources to districts for dealing with trauma caused by the pandemic and recent national events.
- ◆ Provide incentives for successful school/human services agency collaboration.
- ◆ Support the recruitment and education of mental health professionals through funding to attract people to the field.
- ◆ Fund teacher and staff development to ensure understanding of how the pandemic affects student mental health. They all seek to develop skills and resources to help students grow and learn despite the increased stresses Covid-19 has brought into their lives.

Equitable Internet Access

- ◆ Lobby internet service providers to broaden access to the internet in all communities, especially in rural areas. Ensure broadband reliability, of high quality, and affordability to all families.
- ◆ Support improvements in community infrastructures that would address barriers to broadband accessibility.
- ◆ Offer families the opportunity to purchase discounted communication devices through BOCES.
- ◆ Expand E-rate funding to families and organizations to pay for internet access.



Four County School Boards Association Legislative Committee Delegates

Bloomfield - Caroline Nevil
Canandaigua - Julianne Miller
Clyde-Savannah - Lynn Carnevale
Dundee - Robert Neu
Gananda - Bill Buchko
Geneva - Emily Fisher
Honeoye - Keith Stumbo
Lyons - Lisa Stone
Manchester-Shortsville - Jennifer Speers
Marcus Whitman - Phyllis Frantel
Marion - Amber Taber

Newark - Russ Harris, Four County SBA 1st Vice President
North Rose-Wolcott - Linda Eygnor
Penn Yan - Robin Johnson, Four County SBA President
Phelps-Clifton Springs - Sheri Scherbyn
Seneca Falls - Linda Jones
Sodus - Laura Steffler-Alampi
South Seneca - Mike Paparone
Wayne - Jennifer Schoene Co-Chair
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES - O.J. Sahler
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES - Lynn Gay Co-Chair
Williamson - Monica Fernaays