

# Four County School Boards Association

## 2026 STATE POSITIONS

The Four County School Boards Association, representing 21 school district boards of education in Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates counties, believes education is more than curriculum and instruction. It includes mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, safety, and transportation.

This position paper reflects the priorities of our member school districts and incorporates new insights gathered from our August 2025 Legislative Survey. It is intended to guide advocacy efforts at the state level and ensure alignment with the evolving needs of our schools and communities. These issues coincide with a time of severe financial strain for districts and our state.

**The Four County School Boards Association supports the following positions, and we seek your assistance in achieving these goals.**

### **Equity and Predictability in Funding**

- Advocate for reliable and sustainable state aid formulas that support all districts equitably
- Provide consistent funding for school-to-work programs to ensure long-term viability
- Honor all budgetary commitments made for aidable expenses
- Use the Rockefeller report as a foundation for discussion of meaningful reforms to support all rural schools in New York

### **Mental and Behavioral Health**

- Support mental health services tailored to individual needs, including academic and social-emotional learning
- Collaborate with human services agencies to provide wraparound support
- Fund professional development for staff to address mental health and wellness

### **Staffing**

- Support innovation in recruitment and retention of high quality staff especially in rural districts
- Advocate for certification flexibility from NYSED to allow districts to fill vacancies more effectively
- Support civil service flexibility in job descriptions and qualifications to meet local needs

### **School Safety and SROs**

- Fund School Resource Officers (SROs) and security improvements
- Support legislation to make SROs and security measures aidable under BOCES

### **Electrical Buses**

- Provide financial assistance and realistic timelines for electric bus implementation
- Address unique logistical and infrastructure challenges faced by rural districts

### **State Mandates**

- Support technical upgrades for:
  - Classroom temperature control
  - Cyber Security and Data protection
  - Internet access

See over



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**Howard Dennis** - Executive Director

**Julie Nevelizer and Emily Fisher**  
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

131 Drumlin Court, Newark, NY

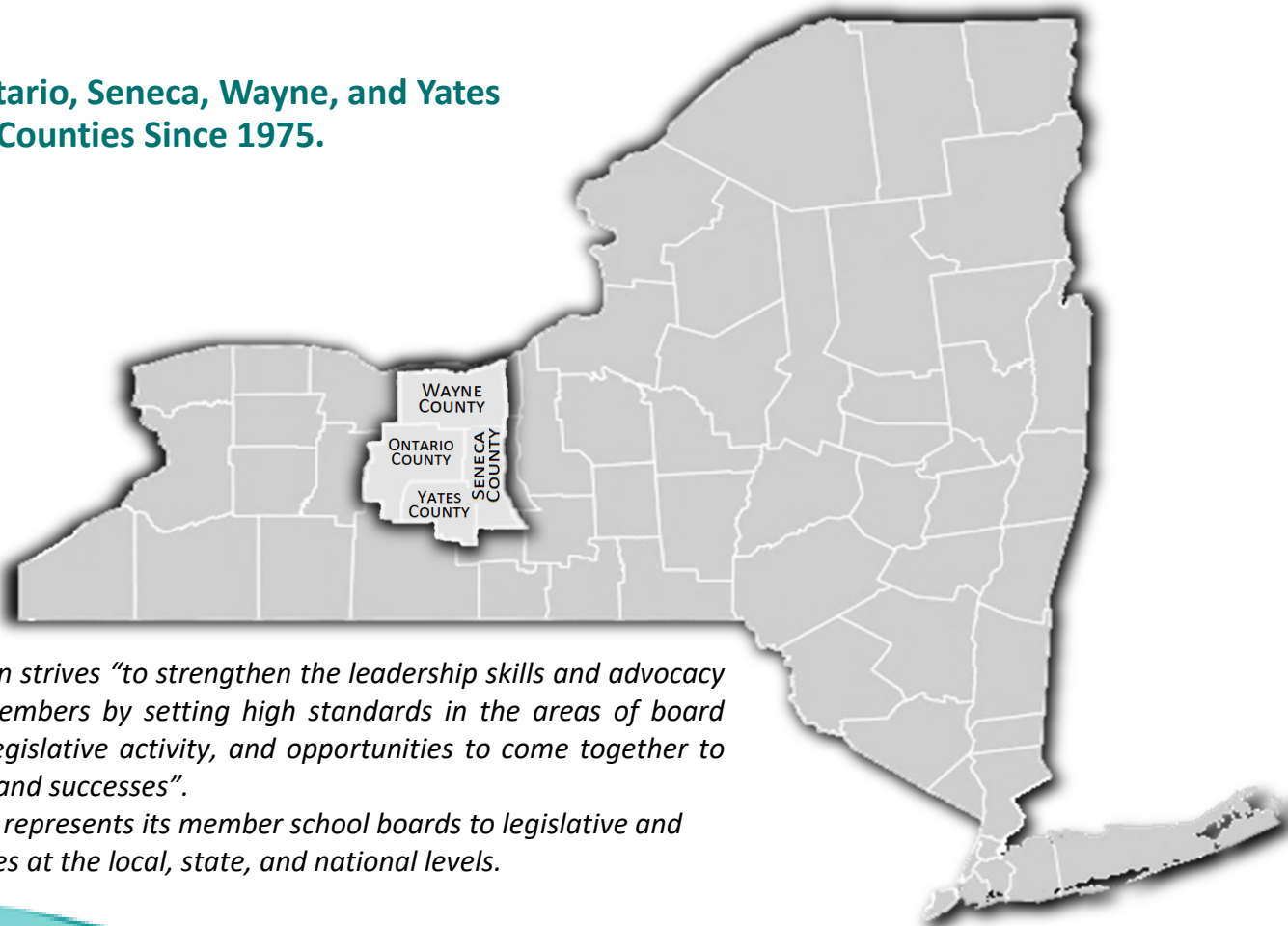
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## FOUR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION MEMBER DISTRICTS

BLOOMFIELD | CANANDAIGUA | CLYDE-SAVANNAH | DUNDEE | GANANDA | GENEVA | HONEOYE  
LYONS | MANCHESTER-SHORTSVILLE | MARION | NEWARK | NORTH ROSE-WOLCOTT | PENN YAN  
PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS | SENECA FALLS | SODUS | SOUTH SENECA | WATERLOO | WAYNE  
WAYNE-FINGER LAKES BOCES | WILLIAMSON

**Serving Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates  
Counties Since 1975.**



### About 4CSBA:

*The organization strives "to strengthen the leadership skills and advocacy efforts of its members by setting high standards in the areas of board development, legislative activity, and opportunities to come together to share concerns and successes".*

*The Association represents its member school boards to legislative and regulatory bodies at the local, state, and national levels.*

See over

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## 2026 FEDERAL POSITIONS

The Four County School Boards Association, representing 21 school district boards of education in Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates counties in New York State believes education is more than curriculum and instruction. This position paper reflects the priorities of our member school districts and incorporates new insights gathered from the 2025 Legislative Survey.

*The Four County School Boards Association supports the following positions, and we seek your assistance in achieving these goals.*

### **Maintain Title Funding**

- Maintain all levels of Federal funding
- Provide flexible dollars to meet needs of our students

### **Maintain IDEA Funding**

- Maintain special education funding
- Has traditionally been underfunded causing local district budgets to be strained in meeting the needs of our students

### **Student Health Wellness/Mental Health**

- Protect funding for school-based Medicaid services
- Increase funds to address mental health services
- Simplify processes to provide mental and medical services in schools

### **E-rate and Training**

- Continue to fully fund E-rate programs
- Support training in advances in AI and cybersecurity risks
- Support infrastructure development to equalize opportunities for rural districts

### **School Staffing**

- Support innovation in recruitment and retention of high quality staff
- Invest in Title IIA which supports professional development

### **School Meals**

- Maintain current funding
- Reject any adjustments to CEP thresholds
- Simplify processes for income verification

### **Vouchers for Non-Public Education**

- Reject vouchers in all forms
- Hold all schools receiving Federal funds to the same standards



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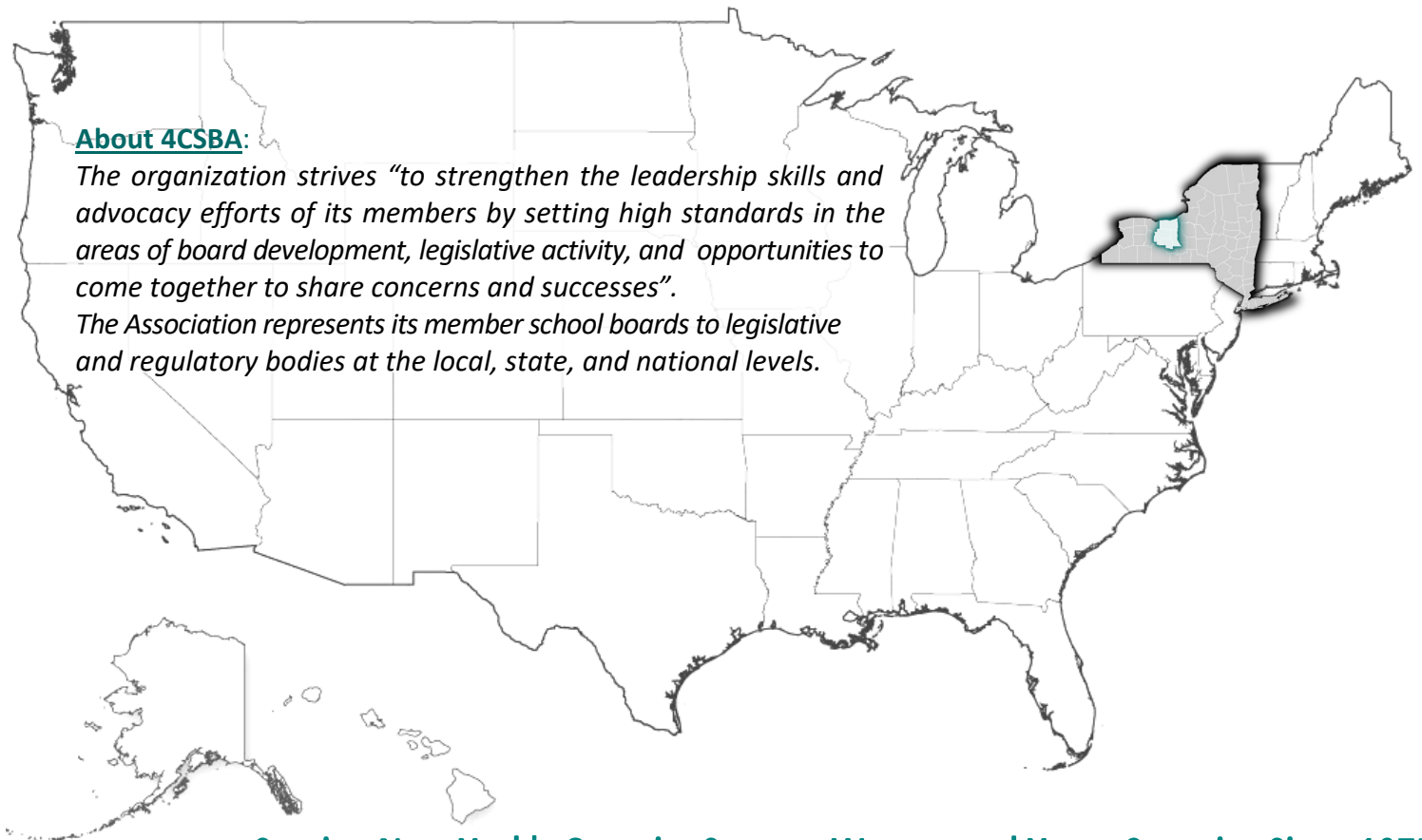
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