



2022 POSITION PAPER

BOARD OF REGENTS AND REGULATORY POSITION STATEMENTS

The Four County School Boards Association is comprised of *mostly rural, low wealth, high need school districts which are* located within the New York State Counties of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates. Situated in the Finger Lakes, the area educates 35,000 students (NYSED) and represents 262,300 community members (2020 U.S. Census).

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.

EDUCATION P - 16

Four County school board members are elected officials vested with the responsibility to maximize academic achievement of the students in their respective districts to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

The Four County School Board Association asks the Regents to:

- **Ensure that all students are college and/or career ready, by adopting a systemic P-16 approach to education reform that includes implementation of the Next Generation and NYSED Standards**
- **Support implementation of the Next Generation by**
 - o Building universal understanding
 - o Advocating for funding to support the necessary staff development
 - o Continued review and refinement of the State’s approach to testing
- **Establish a state-wide system of student assessment that:**
 - o Provides consistently reliable, valid and developmentally appropriate assessments with timely, accurate results that generate useful diagnostic information for teachers
 - o Allows for flexible test modifications including component retesting and “testing-on-demand” to accommodate individual student needs
 - o Includes the ability to monitor each student’s individual annual progress. This would provide a truer measure of progress than measuring group proficiency or cohort-to cohort comparisons
 - o Supports funding to meet technology requirements for on-line testing in every school district
- **Advocate for state funding for the full cost of writing and scoring State required exams.**
 - o Staffing shortages can make this burdensome to school districts
- **Continue to support district capacity to provide on-line learning and academic assistance**
- **Allow districts to use demonstrated competence vs. seat-time for course credit and/or graduation requirements**
- **Advocate for consolidated, full funding for Universal Pre-K to accommodate the developmental needs of all children**

Vision Statement - A respected and strong collective voice for excellence in public education

Mission Statement - The Four County School Boards Association will provide training and advocacy opportunities to support and advance excellence in public education and promote the achievement of all students through effective governance





STAFFING

Student success is directly related to the quality of the entire staff (professional and non professional) of the district. A well-trained staff is essential for a high quality student experience. We urge the Regents to:

- Support the recruitment and retention of all staff through funding and regulatory changes.
- Improve the Part 83 Process
- Allow an alternative path to certification and provide for local flexibility and creative staffing solutions
- Advocate for incentives to increase the number of teachers in math, science, and technology and other areas experiencing a shortage of candidates
- Transform teacher and administrator preparation programs:
- Establish a common sense approach to the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR)

STATE AID

We urge the Regents to continue to support and advocate for a more equitable distribution of aid including:

- A formula that is equitable, sufficient, timely and accounts for both poverty and fiscal capacity
- Funding for all state generated mandates that drain resources and do not recognize differing student needs across the state.

STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP THROUGH CONSISTENT, ACCURATE COMMUNICATION AMONG EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS

Reliable information from the State Education Department that provides critical guidance to school districts in their efforts to comply with regulation and to seek direction. Thank you to the Commissioner and the Board of Regents for their recognition of the need to work together with local Boards of Education to develop a shared understanding of state standards and local challenges in the effort to improve the quality of education in New York State. The Commissioner's availability to meet with school board groups around the state has increased communication. To further enhance shared understanding we urge the Regents to:

- Continue working with school board members and educational professionals as valued partners in the decision making process including reinstating the Commissioner's Round-Table
- Continue to improve the communication process for timely and meaningful input from your partners prior to making policy decisions that impact local school districts.
- Participate in regular, planned meetings between members of the Board of Regents and representatives from the state and local school boards associations
- Support and encourage the creation of a Commissioner's Advisory Council of School Board Members that includes representation from the Board of Regents. To provide continuity, the Council's composition should be similar to that for superintendents and NYSUT, with annually appointed representatives from all state and regional school board organizations either in place of or in addition to the current Round-Table format with the continually changing group of school board members
- Continue to provide open forums, with widely publicized, timely notification, that seek all viewpoints when key issues are being considered
- Re-establish the Chancellor's Advisory Council of School Board Members with similar composition to the Commissioner's Advisory Council and the inclusion of the Vice Chancellor

Jennifer Schoene - Legislative Committee Chair

Emily Fisher - Legislative Committee Vice Chair

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