

WPSBA

2024-25 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES



SUPPORTING FINANCIAL STABILITY:

- Develop & fully fund a transparent, sustainable, equitable Foundation Aid formula
- Maintain expense-based aids
- Review wealth factors in the building formula to help maintain aging buildings
- Make common sense revisions to the tax cap formula, including non-academic cost exemptions (e.g. pension, health care, security), carryover of unused levy and accounting for enrollment growth



SUPPORTING STUDENT WELL-BEING:

- Support student mental health programming for students in all districts
- Ensure access/availability of community based behavioral health resources
- Empower districts to adopt cell phone policies that are focused on age-appropriate student mental health and educational needs
- Increase per pupil rate for UPK



SUPPORTING SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

- Limit cost of special education programs by placing boundaries on the cost of outside programs
- Ensure availability of out-of-district quality special education providers, including out of state options
- Shift the burden of proof for parentally placed students from the school district to the parents
- Provide Special Act School Districts with an updated tuition methodology, an interim rate by July 1st and elimination of the direct/indirect cost screen



SUPPORTING EDUCATION WORKFORCE:

- Reform civil service testing and hiring, including faster test results & lengthening of provisional appts
- Increase flexibility for teacher certification, including out-of-state teachers and career changers
- Permit more flexibility in teacher assignments outside of certification areas
- Focus on BOCES fiscal stability by increasing the CTE salary cap, permitting reserves, making eligible for grants and aid for capital and infrastructure
- Allow flexibility in the timing of BOCES budget vote & revisit the District Superintendent salary cap



SUPPORTING OPERATIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Increase funding for school security facilities and technology upgrades & school security staff/SROs
- Assist districts in transition to EV buses with funding, increasing bus manufacturing, electricity availability and use of hybrid buses
- Permit districts to develop calendars that best meet the needs of their students, families and faculty
- Add coordinated supports for school cybersecurity
- Improve school election operations by discontinuing second petitioning period when candidate drops out
- Aid in funding to maintain aging school buildings and providing energy efficient upgrades