



Monroe County School Boards Association

Position Paper: The State's Investment in Public Education

Public education continues to be a major economic driver for our local communities, our counties and the state. Without adequate funding to maintain quality public school districts for ALL students, continued economic development across NYS will not be a sustainable goal.

MCSBA requests: Our membership calls for upon the New York State government to honor their constitutional obligation to support public education and explore every possible source of revenue to support this mandate.

- New York State public schools rely on two main sources of revenue to operate: **state aid** and **property tax levies**. With the **tax cap** in place, the **State** controls both of those sources.
- **The Governor, the State Legislature, and the State Education Department** must act to rebalance the equation of expectations on school districts with a realistic revenue stream and flexibility to allow for local decision making.

ISSUES	SOLUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundation Aid must reflect current needs in NYS schools. • The Tax Cap has resulted in disruptions to long term budget planning, negative tax caps and community understanding. • The Tax Cap as well as State Aid fluctuates year to year making it difficult to create long-term financial plans and programming decisions. • Public school districts face a growing need for resources to serve students who are homeless, live in poverty, are English Language Learners, have disabilities and have increased mental health needs. • Public school districts have significant cost drivers with mandates and pension contributions that are controlled by the state. • State legislation was approved to help school districts by allowing for PILOT growth and BOCES capital expenditures to be factored into the tax cap. • Promised mandate relief has not materialized. 	<p>Modernize the Funding Formula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Update the Foundation Aid formula to provide adequate funding that is reflective of current educational demands. → Protect save harmless to ensure that all school districts receive at minimum the same amount of funding as the previous year. → The tax levy limit needs to be changed to allow school districts to comply with a 2% floor, or the CPI, whichever is higher. <p>Fund State Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Governmental agencies must ensure that ALL students regardless of demographics or socioeconomic status are provided with the opportunity to an education. → Tax exemptions such as the Veteran's Tax Exemption, the First Responder's Tax Exemption, and the Senior Fixed Income Exception should not be a local school board decision. → Establish regulations to support state law related to PILOT growth and BOCES capital expenditures. <p>Streamline the Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → A simple majority should be used when a school district asks for the community to override a tax levy limit without adding weight to dissenting voters' power. → Follow through on the state commitment to provide mandate relief to school districts with funding to offset the additional requirements.