



## WSWHE Chief School Officers 2020 Legislative Priorities

**Fund and Adjust the Foundation Formula:** The Foundation Aid Formula was put in place several years ago as part of an effort to provide for a transparent, equitable and reliable funding stream for school districts. It was designed to supplement other forms of district revenue, specifically the local tax levy. **With the implementation of the tax levy cap**, it is critical that the foundation formula be adequately funded. Recommended changes include, but are not limited to the following:

- Review and Update the Foundation Aid Amount that currently is \$6,714 per pupil to more accurately reflect the cost of educating a student;
- Provide a minimum increase of 2% in Foundation Aid to all school districts;
- Adjust the weighting factor for Free and Reduced Lunch. Since the great recession, area school districts have seen a notable increase in the number of students who qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program for School Lunch (the FRLP count) each year. The Foundation aid formula was designed prior to the “great recession” and the tax cap. To this end, the formula must adjust the weighting factor for FRLP from .65 to .75-.80 (See Attachment A);
- Maintain the “SAVE Harmless” provision. While many districts, including ours, have lost enrollment, the decrease is generally not sufficient to reduce staffing.

**Increase the \$30,000 Threshold on BOCES Aid for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs:** Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs provide students with essential skills that prepare them for college and careers. However, the existing state aid formula for CTE programs operated by BOCES only provides aid for the first \$30,000 of a BOCES instructor’s salary, although the average salary of a CTE teacher is now \$65,000. The current salary cap was established in 1992 and must be increased to ensure that students have access to the CTE pathway by providing 100% aidability for the salaries of CTE teachers.

**Allow Districts to Access the BOCES Health Safety and Risk Management Service to Offset the Costs, and to Increase the Number of School Resource Officers:** To further enhance the safety and security of our schools, certain safety and security measures should be authorized as part of the BOCES Health and Safety CO-SER.

**Support a Permanent Solution to the Small Group Health Insurance Issue:** Since 2015, school districts and BOCES that participate in health care consortiums as an effective way to reduce their health care costs, have faced the possibility that they would be forced out of these consortiums and face very significant increases in their health care costs as a result of a change in law. The definition of what constitutes a “small group” was changed in 2015 from 1-50 to 1-100 members. As a result, without another statutory change, districts with between 51-100 members would have been forced into the small group market, significantly increasing their health care costs. Because of this concern, several laws have been enacted that have temporarily allowed these districts and BOCES to remain in their consortiums. However, this temporary protection is scheduled to end in 2021. To ensure that these districts can remain in their consortiums, a permanent solution must be achieved during the 2020 legislative session.



**Support Efforts to Prevent the use of E-Cigarettes including Vaping:** The use of e-cigarettes, including vaping has not only become a major distraction facing students, staff and administrators it is also becoming a major public health crisis, including in our schools. Students, as young as those attending middle school, are using e-cigarettes. Every effort must be made to prevent students from using e-cigarettes especially at school. This includes, but is not limited to, support for policies/legislation that:

- Prohibit the sale & distribution of flavored e-cigarettes (A47A/S428)
- Restrict advertisement and promotion of e-cigarettes (A8141/S5056)
- Prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes near school grounds (A7212)
- Establish rules to prevent individuals from allowing minors to obtain e-cigarettes (S6073)

**Building Aid for Small Capital Projects:** Current law allows school districts to be reimbursed for base year capital outlay expenses *for one project each year* that has a total cost of \$100,000 or less without being subject to the lengthy assumed amortization schedule that otherwise exists. This helps districts to undertake smaller, but important capital projects, receive aid much quicker, while saving the State money on interest payments. Because the threshold amount of \$100,000 was established in 2002 and not increased since that time, raising the threshold amount to \$250,000 would assist districts in making critical capital improvements.

**% of Free and Reduced Price Lunch  
2011-12 through 2019-20**

BEDS	State Aid Year		2018-2019		2017-2018		2016-2017		2015-2016		2014-2015		2013-2014		2012-2013		2011-2012		% Change
	FRPL Year		2014-15-16	2013-14-15	2012-13-14	2011-12-13	2010-11-12	2009-10-11	2008-09-10	2007-08-09	2006-07-08	2005-06-07	2004-05-06	2003-04-05	2002-03-04	2001-02-03	2000-01-02		
640101	ARGYLE	43%	41%	38%	32%	31%	31%	36%	34%	32%	31%	31%	36%	34%	34%	32%	32%	31.73%	
521301	BALLSTON SPA	33%	33%	31%	29%	24%	26%	23%	22%	24%	24%	24%	23%	22%	22%	22%	22%	46.26%	
630101	BOLTON	35%	32%	28%	24%	24%	21%	19%	21%	24%	21%	21%	19%	21%	21%	23%	23%	54.10%	
641610	CAMBRIDGE	42%	43%	43%	38%	38%	36%	34%	36%	38%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%	33%	33%	25.23%	
520401	CORINTH	50%	49%	46%	45%	45%	47%	42%	47%	45%	44%	44%	42%	36%	36%	35%	35%	42.13%	
640502	FORT ANN	49%	45%	43%	40%	40%	40%	36%	40%	40%	36%	36%	35%	33%	33%	32%	32%	52.53%	
640601	FORT EDWARD	60%	62%	64%	62%	64%	61%	56%	61%	62%	56%	56%	54%	50%	50%	46%	46%	29.52%	
520701	GALWAY	34%	32%	31%	34%	34%	32%	30%	32%	34%	30%	26%	26%	26%	26%	23%	23%	44.88%	
630300	GLENS FALLS	45%	45%	45%	47%	45%	45%	43%	45%	47%	43%	41%	41%	39%	39%	38%	38%	19.05%	
630918	GLENS FALLS CO	66%	64%	63%	63%	63%	69%	74%	69%	63%	74%	77%	77%	68%	68%	62%	62%	6.10%	
640701	GRANVILLE	58%	55%	52%	50%	50%	54%	64%	54%	50%	64%	53%	53%	47%	47%	47%	47%	24.01%	
640801	GREENWICH	33%	31%	29%	27%	27%	23%	20%	23%	27%	20%	25%	25%	19%	19%	20%	20%	68.22%	
630801	HADLEY LUZERNE	50%	51%	53%	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%	49%	49%	50%	50%	48%	48%	5.47%	
641001	HARTFORD	50%	49%	43%	41%	41%	40%	40%	40%	41%	40%	40%	37%	35%	35%	33%	33%	50.42%	
641301	HUDSON FALLS	56%	57%	49%	49%	49%	47%	53%	47%	49%	53%	52%	52%	51%	51%	50%	50%	12.26%	
200401	INDIAN LAKE	46%	45%	42%	44%	44%	40%	39%	40%	44%	39%	37%	37%	31%	31%	30%	30%	55.42%	
630601	JOHNSBURG	55%	56%	53%	55%	55%	52%	52%	52%	55%	52%	52%	52%	48%	48%	44%	44%	26.40%	
630701	LAKE GEORGE	24%	24%	22%	20%	20%	19%	19%	19%	20%	19%	19%	19%	18%	18%	17%	17%	35.74%	
521200	MECHANICVILLE	39%	40%	38%	36%	36%	38%	38%	38%	36%	38%	41%	41%	38%	38%	37%	37%	6.53%	
150801	MINERVA	60%	55%	51%	47%	47%	43%	44%	43%	47%	44%	44%	44%	47%	47%	44%	44%	36.59%	
151001	NEWCOMB	46%	50%	50%	42%	42%	35%	32%	35%	42%	32%	35%	35%	31%	31%	26%	26%	73.43%	
630202	NORTH WARREN	53%	54%	52%	54%	54%	52%	49%	52%	54%	49%	46%	46%	44%	44%	42%	42%	24.72%	
630902	QUEENSBURY	36%	35%	32%	29%	29%	25%	24%	25%	29%	24%	22%	22%	21%	21%	19%	19%	87.47%	
641501	SALEM	52%	55%	58%	78%	78%	74%	69%	74%	78%	69%	44%	44%	42%	42%	41%	41%	27.06%	
521800	SARATOGA SPRINGS	21%	22%	20%	19%	19%	18%	18%	18%	19%	18%	17%	17%	16%	16%	15%	15%	42.03%	
521701	SCHUYLERVILLE	28%	29%	29%	27%	27%	24%	23%	24%	27%	23%	23%	23%	23%	23%	22%	22%	26.86%	
521401	SOUTH GLENS FALLS	35%	33%	32%	29%	29%	28%	25%	28%	29%	25%	24%	24%	21%	21%	20%	20%	76.06%	
522001	STILLWATER	32%	31%	30%	30%	30%	29%	28%	29%	30%	28%	27%	27%	29%	29%	28%	28%	11.44%	
631201	WARRENSBURG	61%	60%	58%	58%	58%	54%	48%	54%	58%	48%	36%	36%	28%	28%	30%	30%	100.07%	
522101	WATERFORD	44%	41%	39%	40%	40%	43%	42%	43%	40%	42%	37%	37%	35%	35%	36%	36%	21.83%	
641701	WHITEHALL	64%	62%	59%	56%	56%	77%	80%	77%	56%	80%	78%	78%	53%	53%	49%	49%	31.26%	