Dear Friends:

The 2016 legislative session Assembly Majority fought to increase education funding and accomplished a $1.4 billion increase in general support to public schools, for a total of $24.7 billion. This funding will help schools across the state to better serve their students. I am also pleased to report that we were able to fully restore the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), eliminating this problem for our districts.

Our committee continues to tackle the issues surrounding persistently struggling schools. This year’s budget provides a total of $175 million for community schools, $100 million which is set-aside within Foundation Aid and $75 million in additional community schools funding for school districts with schools that are designated struggling or persistently struggling.

I look forward to hearing from our many partners in education this upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nolan
Chairwoman

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Assemblymembers Glick, Santabarbara, Simon, Seawright, Rozic and Bronson at a rally to continue the fight for fair funding for schools

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Assemblymembers Glick and Commissioner MaryEllen Elia with Board of Regents Dr. Luis Reye, Elizabeth Hakanson, Eileen Mead and Beverly Ouderkirk

2016 Update from the New York State Assembly

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Carl E. Heastie, Speaker  •  Catherine Nolan, Chairwoman
This year we elected 3 new Regents to the Board of Regents - Nan Eileen Mead, Dr. Luis Reyes, Elizabeth Smith Hakanson. I want to thank all those who took time to come interview for the Board of Regents and the many Assembly members who took part in these interviews.

Also the Board of Regents selected a new Chancellor, Betty A. Rosa and Vice-Chancellor: T. Andrew Brown.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Board of Regents in the upcoming year.

This year I introduced A.10023 which would direct the Commissioner of Education to establish rules and regulations for a sepsis awareness and prevention program for school districts, boards of cooperative educational services and nonpublic schools. I look forward to continue working on this legislation next year, so that we can bring thoughtful health regulations and sepsis education to New York schools.
The 2016 State Budget Highlights on Education

- Provides a total of $175 million for community schools, $100 million which is set-aside within Foundation Aid and $75 million in additional community schools funding for school districts with schools that are designated struggling or persistently struggling pursuant to education law 211-f. School districts must use the funds to support the transformation of school buildings into community hubs to deliver co-located or school-linked academic, legal, social services, health, mental health, nutrition and counseling to students and their families.

- Provides an overall increase to General Support for Public Schools (GSPS) of $1.4 billion over the 2015-2016 school year, for a total of $24.7 billion.

- Increases Foundation Aid by $627 billion for the 2016-2017 school year, which is an increase of $360 million over the Executive's proposed increase.

- Fully restores the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) for a total of $434 million.

- Provides $20 million to implement the Board of Regent's recommendations from its Blue Ribbon Committee and Workgroup to Improve Outcomes for Boys and Young Men of Color.

- Provides $22 million for a new prekindergarten program for three-year olds.

- $3 million for the Early College High School/Smart Transfer Program grant

- $1 million for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and includes language to clarify that this funding is intended to reduce barriers that prevent English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities from participating in CTE programs, as well as to promote gender diversity in such programs

- An additional $1 million for Adult Literacy Education (ALE), for a total of $7.29 million

- $461,000 for Bard High School Early College in Queens

- $475,000 for the Executive Leadership Institute

- $14.3 million for Teacher Resources and Computer Training Centers

- $4 million increase in Aid to Public Libraries, for a total of $95.6 million

- $5 million increase for Library Construction Grants, for a total of $19 million