

2018 Update from the New York State Assembly



EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Carl E. Heastie, Speaker • Catherine Nolan, Chair

Letter from the Chair:

Dear Friends:

During the 2018 legislative session the Assembly Majority fought to increase education funding and achieved an overall \$914 million increase in direct support to public schools, for a total of \$26.6 billion. This funding will help schools across the state serve their students more effectively.

Our committee recognizes the important role that schools play in providing students with the skills they need to lead a safe and healthy lifestyle. In October, we held a public hearing to examine the current state of school health, mental health, physical education programs, services, and instruction in New York State's schools, and study best practices to continue to support our student's wellbeing.

My colleagues and I will continue the fight for adequate support for our public schools, and I look forward to hearing from our many partners in education this upcoming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Nolan".

Catherine Nolan
Chair

NYC Schools Trailer Removal

The Smart School Bond Act Review Board approved \$400 million in expenditures for New York City to replace Transportable Classroom Units and to modernize pre-kindergarten classrooms. This will allow New York City schools to move students out of temporary trailers and into classrooms within the schools. Schools in my district have been terribly overcrowded for years. Improving these awful, outdated, dangerous classrooms has been my goal as chair of the Education Committee. I am delighted and grateful. I look forward to our continued successes in securing funding to benefit all of our students.



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan and New York State Department of Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia alongside education committee members Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo and Assemblyman Philip Ramos.

School Health, Mental Health, and Physical Education Hearing



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee, Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman, and Silvia Lask, Chair of the Government Relations Committee at the New York State Mental Health Association at our school health, mental health, and physical education hearing.

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan and Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell with New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (NYS AHPERD) Executive Director Colleen Corsi, and health and physical educators.



This October, we held a well-attended hearing to examine the current state of school health, mental health, and physical education programs, services, and instruction in New York State's schools and study best practices to continue to support our student's wellbeing. Schools play an integral role in teaching students the skills they need to lead a safe and healthy lifestyle. Research has shown that comprehensive, quality health and physical education programs can lower risky behaviors among young people and have a positive impact on their academic achievement. Health education, physical education, and other programs help students establish positive attitudes and behaviors about their physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. I look forward to continuing this discussion regarding the well-being of our students.

Passed Both Houses

A.2112A, Nolan:

This legislation would update the BOCES district superintendent salary cap.

A.5618A, Abinanti:

This legislation requires the commissioners of education and social services to develop separate reimbursement methodologies for tuition and maintenance of 853 schools and Special Act School Districts.

A.7966C, Peoples-Stokes:

This legislation requires supplemental basic charter school tuition to school districts outside of New York City to be reimbursed to such districts in the current school year for expenses incurred in the 2017-18 school year and thereafter.

A.8108A, Abbate:

This legislation provides previously tenured principals, administrators, supervisors and other members of the supervising staff of school districts a 3 year tenure probationary period instead of 4 years if they have already been tenured at another school district or BOCES in NYS.

A.9730, Goodell:

This legislation would have legalized, validated, ratified and confirmed certain actions by the Panama Central School District due to the failure of the district to file a timely final building cost reports for a 2005 capital project.

A.9825, Galef:

This legislation would have exempted certain BOCES capital expenditures from a school district's tax levy limit.

A.10063B, Joyner:

This legislation authorizes and directs the Commissioner of Education to conduct a study on the effects of trauma on child development and learning. The Commissioner of Education would be required to deliver a report of the findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature within one year of enactment.

A.10454, Gunther:

This legislation would have legalized, validated, ratified and confirmed certain actions by the Roscoe Central School District due to the failure of the district to file timely final building cost reports.

A.10752, Barclay:

This legislation would have legalized, validated, ratified and confirmed a transportation contract for the Fulton City School District.

A.10771, Palmesano:

This legislation would have legalized, validated, ratified and confirmed late filed transportation contracts for the Corning City School District.

A.10824A, D'Urso:

This legislation would have legalized, validated, ratified and confirmed late filed transportation contracts for the Port Washington Union Free School District.

Passed Assembly

A.10475, Nolan:

This legislation would have eliminated the mandate that state created or administered assessments be used to determine a teacher or principal's evaluation. The Commissioner would be required to promulgate regulations providing alternative assessments for school districts that chose not to use state assessments. The selection and use of assessments would be subject to collective bargaining. This bill would also have eliminated the use of the state-provided growth model in a teacher

or principal's evaluation. All teachers would be required to have a student learning objective (SLO) consistent with a goal-setting process determined or developed by the Commissioner as the first subcomponent for the student performance category. In addition, it would have made permanent provisions prohibiting grades 3 through 8 English Language Arts (ELA) or Math assessment scores from being included on a student's permanent record. This bill passed the Assembly and died in the Senate Committee on Education.

Mental Health Education Law Goes Into Effect:

My 2016 bill which, calls on school districts to ensure that their health education programs recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental health and the relation between mental and physical health in health education, was signed into law. Mental health is an integral part of our overall health and should be an integral part of health education in New York schools. By ensuring that young people learn about mental health, we increase the likelihood that they will be able to more effectively recognize signs in themselves and others, including family members,

and get the right help. As we begin to teach the facts about mental health and openly discuss the issues from a health perspective, we will begin to remove the stigma surrounding mental illness – a stigma that causes ostracism and isolation, leads to bullying and keeps many students from getting the help they need. Starting July 1, 2018, this law is now in effect and school districts will be able to access the resources they need to teach students mental health education.

Education Bills Signed by the Governor:

A.8485B, Nolan;

Chapter 363 of the Laws of 2018:

This law expands the definitions of “child,” “employee,” “volunteer,” “educational setting,” and “administrator” within Article 23-B of the Education Law to include all school districts, public schools, charter schools, nonpublic schools, 853 schools, 4201s, 4410s, Special Act School Districts, BOCES and bus companies that contract with such school or school district. The bill also expands the responsibility to report allegations of child abuse to include licensed and registered physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, teacher aides, school resource officers, and school bus drivers and their supervisors. In addition, all teachers and administrators employed by a school other than a public school or school district, as well as all school bus drivers, must complete two hours of coursework or training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment.

A.381, Nolan;

Chapter 357 of the Laws of 2018:

This law requires the Commissioner of Education to collect data from school districts receiving Special Services Aid on the number of students that are in ninth grade and enrolled in career education programs.

A.9001, Nolan;

Chapter 10 of the Laws of 2018:

This law is an amendment to Chapter 347 of the Laws of 2017 to clarify that sepsis is not transmittable.

A.10369, Nolan;

Chapter 249 of the Laws of 2018:

This law renames Chapter 61 of the Laws of 2002, which required automatic external defibrillators (AED) in schools, to the Louis Acompora AED's in Schools Act.

A.10471, Nolan;

Chapter 89 of the Laws of 2018:

This law extends for three years, until June 30, 2021, provisions of law that authorize a pilot program providing students residing in hospitals operated by the Office of Mental Health with specialized educational programming that more closely aligns with the services they would receive in their local school districts.

A.2954B, McDonald;

Chapter 214 of the Laws of 2018:

This law authorizes a board of education or trustee to enter into agreements with any municipalities or county police department or district to help pay for the salaries of school crossing guards when there is an increase in the number of school crossing guards employed by such municipality or county police department or district.

A.8382B, Galef;

Chapter 233 of the Laws of 2018:

This law requires law enforcement to immediately notify the superintendent of any school district, charter school, BOCES, private school or special education school

when an accusatory instrument has been filed against an employee alleging a commission of a sex offense.

A.8947, Skoufis;

Chapter 32 of the Laws of 2018:

This law is an amendment to Chapter 410 of the Laws of 2017 to allow all students, not just students with disabilities, who have been issued a Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) commencement credential to participate in the graduation ceremonies and all related activities with the class they entered ninth grade with.

A.9040A, Fahy;

Chapter 236 of the Laws of 2018:

This law makes technical amendments to Chapter 84 of the Laws of 2017, which changed the day members of the Albany City School District are elected from the general election in November to the annual school meeting on the third Tuesday in May.

A.10472, Lifton;

Chapter 90 of the Laws of 2018:

This law extends, for three years, provisions that conform state Education Law to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 in order to ensure that New York State will continue to be in compliance with federal IDEA requirements through the 2020-21 school year.

A.10705, Stirpe;

Chapter 200 of the Laws of 2018:

This law legalizes, validates, ratifies and confirms certain actions by the North Syracuse Central School District due to the failure of the district to file timely final building cost reports.

A.10753, Galef;

Chapter 336 of the Laws of 2018:

This law validates two capital improvement projects for the Hendrick Hudson Central School District for late final cost reports.

A.11022A, Magnarelli;

Chapter 351 of the Laws of 2018:

This law exempts the SAT and ACT from annual disclosure of test questions, answers and scoring rubrics to the Commissioner of Education beginning in the 2019-20 school year, provided that the SAT and ACT disclose a certain number of test forms annually based on the number of exams the administer in New York that year. This law also increased the penalty for violating disclosure provisions from \$500 to \$1,000.

A.9903, Cusick;

Chapter 347 of the Laws of 2018:

This law clarifies the calculation of the reimbursement rate for aid for nonpublic schools.

2018-19 Budget Highlights:

- Provides an overall increase to General Support for Public Schools (GSPS) of \$914 million over the 2017-18 school year, for a total of \$26.6 billion
- Provides a total of \$200 million for community schools, which is an increase of \$50 million over the 2017-18 school year
- Increases Foundation Aid by \$618 million for the 2018-19 school year, for a total of \$17.8 billion
- \$2 million for the Supportive Schools grant program to help districts improve school climate, safety and implement the Dignity for All Students Act
- \$15 million to expand Half-Day and Full-Day Prekindergarten for three- and four-year-olds
- \$9 million for Early College High Schools
- \$2.5 million for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) test assistance
- \$1 million for the Master Teachers program
- \$10 million for the Empire State After School program
- \$5 million for the Breakfast After the Bell program
- \$500,000 for gang prevention education programs
- \$250,000 for school mental health programs
- \$14.3 million for Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers
- \$475,000 for the Executive Leadership Institute
- An additional \$1.5 million for Adult Literacy Education (ALE), for a total of \$7.8 million
- \$500,000 for the Consortium for Worker Education enhanced credential program



Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education Richard A. Carranza, Cynthia Gallagher of The School Administrators Association of New York, and Peter McNally of The New York State Federation of School Administrators.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

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Education advocates visit Albany to advocate for safe and supportive schools, including Jasmine Gripper (left,) granddaughter of a longtime community leader in Queens.

**Assemblywoman
Catherine Nolan,
Chair**

*New York State Assembly
Committee on Education*

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