

# ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### PRIORITIZE SOUND FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

- RESTORE Foundation Aid FULL FUNDING (with proper inflation factor) & HOLD HARMLESS commitments.
- Begin SED led review to modernize Foundation Aid formula.
- Increase the cap on aid for BOCES salaries for Career and Technical Education educators.
- Increase Fund Balance limit to a more fiscally responsible percentage point.
- Restore annual funding to make payments against the prior year aid claims list.

### ADDRESS SCHOOL HEALTH, SERVICE & SAFETY NEEDS

- Adopt a universal free school meals program, increasing the number of students fed each day, and streamlining school meal operations.
- Provide dedicated funding for school-based health and mental health services; support increased investments for school-based health centers.
- Establish a training and certification program for special education parent advocates and clearly define their role in the CSE process.
- Provide funding for the development and operation of school safety programs which districts may use to meet the needs of their own districts as determined locally.

### ZERO EMISSION BUSES

- Develop feasibility plan to assess current transition plan timeline and make changes as needed.
- Allow bus storage facility costs to be eligible for state transportation aid.
- Shorten the aid amortization period to seven years for purchases and leases.
- Include the use of hybrid or retrofitted diesel school buses in the transition plan.

### CORRECT PROPERTY TAX CAP FORMULA

- Prohibit negative tax caps, and reform the tax cap override process.
- Account for enrollment growth in the calculation, and make the allowable growth factor a minimum 2%.
- Include PILOT properties in tax base growth factor and ensure school board representation on IDA boards.

### SUPPORT SOUND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONS

- Support efforts to ensure pre-kindergarten programs are equitably and adequately funded so that all districts can provide pre-K if desired.
- Extend the \$35,000 earnings cap waiver for public sector retirees who wish to return to the public workforce.
- Support reforms to modernize and streamline the civil service process.

