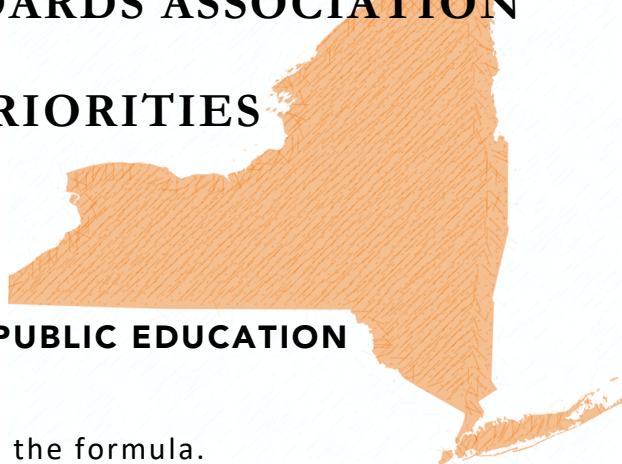


# ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



### **PRIORITIZE SOUND FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

- Maintain Foundation Aid full funding commitments.
- Secure the future of Foundation Aid by modernizing the formula.
- Increase the cap on aid for BOCES salaries for Career and Technical Education educators.
- Increase Fund Balance limit and Reserve Fund flexibility.

### **ADDRESS SCHOOL HEALTH, SERVICE & SAFETY NEEDS**

- Adopt a universal free school meals program and increase school meal reimbursements to adjust for inflation and supply chain shortages.
- Provide dedicated funding for school-based health and mental health services; protect Medicaid payments to school districts.
- 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.

### **CORRECT PROPERTY TAX CAP FORMULA**

- Make the base allowable growth factor a minimum 2%.
- Prohibit negative tax caps, and reform the tax cap override process.
- Account for enrollment growth in the tax cap calculation.
- Include PILOT properties in tax base growth factor.
- Ensure school board representation on IDA boards and/or the authority to disallow such tax deals from applying to school property taxes.

### **SUPPORT SOUND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONS**



- Extend the deadline to transition to 100% zero-emission buses, provide increased dedicated funding, and include the use of hybrid or retrofitted diesel school buses in the transition plan.
- Help mitigate staff shortages by extending the earnings cap waiver for public sector retirees; streamline certification process for out-of-state teachers.