



FEH BOCES Staff News and Notes February 3, 2017

*“The Mission of the Franklin-Essex-Hamilton
Board of Cooperative Educational Services
is to provide shared services to its component
school districts”*

Advocacy and Budget Development

School Districts and BOCES are hard at work developing budgets for the 2017-18 school year. As a part of that process a significant amount of advocacy takes place. Here is a summary of events that are part of the advocacy effort for school districts and BOCES.

- December 9 - The Northeast Council of School Superintendents met with Senator Little and Assemblyman Stec to begin discussion about the upcoming legislative session and priorities of the BOCES and school districts.
- January 27 - New York State School Boards Association Area 6 and FEH BOCES Co-Hosted a legislative breakfast meeting. Superintendents, Business Officials and Board members met with Senator Little, Assemblyman Jones and Assemblyman Stec. Regent Ouderkirk and Charles Dedrick, Executive Director of NYSCOSS, also attended. NYSSBA Area 6 Director Wayne Rogers facilitated a very productive dialog with many discussion points related to Governor Cuomo’s recently released Executive Budget Proposal.
- March 1 - BOCES Advocacy Day will take place in Albany. I will be meeting with legislators, as will our New Vision Government and Law students and their instructor Tracy Edwards.
- March 7 - NYSCOSS (New York State Council of School Superintendents) Advocacy Day. I will be returning to the Capital with Superintendents from across our region to advocate for state aid and other items critical to the BOCES and School Districts.

The priorities for our advocacy efforts include:

- Raising the portion of CTE Instructor salaries eligible for aid. Frozen at \$30,000 since the early 1990’s, this is harming districts as their aid on costs for CTE services is frozen while costs have gone up. See advocacy materials [here](#).
- Allowing school district costs for BOCES Capital Projects to be excluded from the tax cap calculation. This is very important with our upcoming public vote on the FEH BOCES Capital Project. See advocacy materials [here](#).
- Advocating for fairly distributed and sufficient aid for school districts. Districts need sufficient funds not only for programming they offer directly, but also to purchase the high quality programming offered by FEH BOCES.

I encourage you to stay informed about the state budget development process now underway and to consider contacting legislators to express your view. The process is easy as there are links directly to our area legislators on the NY State Assembly and Senate web pages.