

2017 Update from the New York State Assembly



EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Carl E. Heastie, Speaker • Catherine Nolan, Chair

Letter from the Chair:

Dear Friends:

During the 2017 legislative session, the Assembly Majority fought to increase education funding and achieved an overall \$1 billion increase in direct support to public schools, for a total of \$25.7 billion. This funding will help school districts across the state serve their students more effectively.

Our committee continues to confront important issues surrounding our schools. In October, we held a public hearing to review the current state of New York's school infrastructure and facilities and explore new ways to improve and update our schools and Boards of Cooperative Services (BOCES).

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 green ink that reads "Catherine Nolan".

Catherine Nolan
Chair



Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa addressed the NYS Assembly Education Committee in June. She is pictured with Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Assemblymembers Shelley Mayer, Michelle Titus, Carmen Arroyo, Steven Otis, Barbara Lifton, Peter Lopez, Philip Ramos, and Board of Regents Eileen Mead and Beverly Ouder Kirk.

**Assemblywoman
Catherine Nolan, Chair**

*New York State Assembly
Committee on Education*

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Education Bills Signed by the Governor:

A.362, Nolan; Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2017:

This legislation makes a technical correction to the provisions of Chapter 390 of the Laws of 2016, which required all schools to recognize mental health as part of their health education program.

A.1039, Nolan; Chapter 311 of the Laws of 2017:

This legislation clarifies that continuing teacher and leader education requirements apply to all holders of professional certificates in the classroom teaching service, holders of level III teaching assistant certificates, and holders of professional certificates in the educational leadership or service regardless of whether they are employed by a school district, BOCES, or nonpublic school.

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A.6053A, Nolan; Chapter 347 of the Laws of 2017:

Rory Staunton's Law requires the Commissioner of SED to collaborate with the Commissioner of Health to establish a sepsis awareness, prevention, and education program to educate students, parents, and school personnel about sepsis. Such program must include model curriculum, instructional tools, and a dedicated web page on SED's website. SED must also issue guidance memorandum to every school district, BOCES, charter school, and nonpublic school to inform them of such program. In addition, this law includes sepsis in the current coursework and training that all optometrists, dentists, nurses, podiatrists, physician assistants, and physicians must complete every four years in infection control practices.



It has been a great honor to work with the Staunton family on developing this legislation on sepsis awareness and education. Rory Staunton was a wonderful young man who was taken from us by a deadly infection. His parents have bravely dedicated themselves to making changes and educating others to save lives. I want to thank Governor Cuomo for signing Rory Staunton's law. I also want to thank Orlaith and Ciaran Staunton, Speaker Carl Heastie, Regent Chancellor Betty Rosa, Regent Judith Chin, Commissioner MaryEllen Elia, and the staff of the State Education Department for working on this historical piece of legislation. My thanks as well to co-sponsor Senator Carl Marcellino and Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan for their support. The work of the Staunton family will save lives and insure that Rory Staunton will always be remembered. Pictured with Assemblywoman Nolan is Orlaith and Ciaran Staunton, Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa, Commissioner MaryEllen Elia, Regent Judith Chin, and P.S. 150 Queens Principal Carmen Parache.

A.6515A, Nolan; Chapter 350 of the Laws of 2017:

This legislation authorizes SED to use unallocated aid set forth through The Reader's Aid Program for the purchase and use of assistive technology for blind and deaf students in college in order to facilitate their continued education.

A.7684, Nolan; Chapter 313 of the Laws of 2017:

This legislation requires the New York City Department of Education to provide information on its website to parents and the public whenever any school kitchen or cafeteria is inspected by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

A.1377, McDonald; Chapter 277 of the Laws of 2017:

This legislation authorizes the Cohoes and Watervliet City School Districts to require minors five years of age on or before December 1st to attend kindergarten.

A.2093B, Paulin; Chapter 170 of the Laws of 2017:

This legislation updates and modernizes statute prohibiting the alteration of any official records, files, and data related to a student and maintained by a school or college to include identifying data, grades, attendance records, academic work, IEPs, disciplinary records, and records of student achievement.

A.5151B, Crespo; Chapter 183 of the Laws of 2017:

This legislation authorizes a diabetes risk analysis to be included in a student's health certificate. It also adds asthma, chronic bronchitis, other respiratory diseases, and the achievement of a healthy weight to the list of nutritional policies every school district nutrition advisory committee must study and make recommendations on.

A.7583A, Abinanti; Chapter 264 of the Laws of 2017:

This legislation authorizes the Greenburgh North Castle Union Free School District to lease two properties outside of its geographical boundaries for the purpose of providing instruction to students in the Greenburgh North Castle Union Free School District.

A.7971, Hyndman; Chapter 377 of the Laws of 2017:

This legislation would require the Chancellor to examine, evaluate, and make recommendations concerning the feasibility, costs, benefits, and means of expanding the number and types of career and technical education (CTE) schools and programs within New York City. Within a year, the Chancellor would be required to submit a report to the Governor, Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Assembly on his or her findings, conclusions, recommendations, and legislative proposals.

A.8095, Jaffee; Chapter 212 of the Laws of 2017:

This legislation authorizes the Ramapo Central School District to change its name to the Suffern Central School District.

Education Bills Signed by the Governor:

A.982A Nolan; **Chapter 429 of the Laws of 2017:**

This legislation approves all school districts as evaluators of preschool students with disabilities.

A.1036 Nolan; **Chapter 428 of the Laws of 2017:**

This legislation attempts to streamline the process of transition planning when students with disabilities are no longer eligible for tuition-free educational services and provide mandate relief for schools.

A.1595A Skoufis; **Chapter 410 of the Laws of 2017:**

This legislation requires each school district to establish a policy and adopt procedures to allow any student with a disability in the district to participate in graduation and all related activities with the student's graduating class if the student has been issued a Skills and Achievement Commencement credential or Career Development and Occupational Skills credential, but has not otherwise qualified for a Regents or local high school diploma.

Regents Elections 2017

This year, Susan W. Mittler was elected as our new Regent to the Board of Regents and Regent T. Andrew Brown was re-elected as our Vice-Chancellor. I would like to thank everyone who took time to come interview for the Board of Regents and the many Assemblymembers who took part in these interviews.

Education Bills Awaiting the Governor's Actions:

A.881A Gunther:

This legislation authorizes boards of education of union free and central school districts to establish school election wards for the purposes of electing school board members.

A.5965 Galef:

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

A.7788A Mayer:

This legislation authorizes two multi-year cost allowances in a five-year period for the computation of Building Aid for three new Yonkers school construction projects authorized pursuant to Chapter 355 of the laws of 2016.

A.7833 Cusick:

This legislation clarifies that Mandated Services Aid be available to nonpublic schools based on the number of days or portion of days attendance is taken and either a 5.0 or 5.5 hour instructional day or another work day as certified by a nonpublic school official.



📍 **New York City Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Farina addressing the NYS Assembly Education Committee with Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Chair of the Committee.**



📍 **Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with New York City students who came to visit the Capitol and discuss restorative justice in schools.**



📍 **Earlier in the fall a public hearing on School Infrastructure was held in Albany to examine the current state of New York's school infrastructure and facilities and to study new ways to support, improve, and modernize New York State's schools and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) Pictured with Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan is Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright and New York City School Construction Authority President Lorraine Grillo.**

2017-18 Enacted State Budget Highlights:

- Provides a total of \$150 million for community schools, \$50 million which is set-aside within Foundation Aid.
- Provides an overall increase to General Support for Public Schools (GSPS) of \$1 billion over the 2016-17 school year, for a total of \$25.7 billion.
- Increases Foundation Aid by \$700 million for the 2017-18 school year, which is an increase of \$272 million over the Executive's proposed increase.
- \$5 million to expand Half-Day and Full-Day Prekindergarten for three-and-four-year-olds in High-Need School Districts.
- \$5.3 million for Early College High Schools.
- \$2 million for Advanced Placement (AP) test assistance.
- \$300,000 for cyberbullying prevention.
- \$35 million for after-school programs.
- \$1.2 million for regional community schools technical assistance centers.
- \$400,00 for Excellence in Teaching Awards.
- \$2 million for Master Teachers Program.
- An additional \$1 million for Adult Literacy Education (ALE), for a total of \$7.3 million.
- \$475,000 for the Executive Leadership Institute.
- \$20 million for Teacher Resources and Computer Training Centers.



◀ Regent Judith Chin pictured with Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Assemblymembers Nily Rozic, Alicia Hyndman, Mike Miller, David Weprin, Senator Joseph Addabbo, and City Council colleagues at a breakfast she held with Queens Legislators.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

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◀ Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with Assemblymembers Ellen Jaffee, Jo Anne Simone, Shelley Mayer, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, and education advocates at a press conference discussing the continued fight for fair funding for schools.