Our Legislative Priorities

- Change/Update the current Foundation Aid formula
- No set aside funding—allow for flexibility in the use of state aid
- Pre-K funding formula update
- Increase state’s share of funding for student and staff mental health needs and services
- Provide sustainable funding to assist with growing investments in ongoing cybersecurity needs in schools
- Provide relief for unfunded or underfunded mandates
  - Unaccompanied Minors
  - English Language Learners
  - Special Education
- Increase allowable Fund Balance Reserve for School Districts
- Charter School Reform

What You Can Do

- Contact federal, state and local legislators
- Stay informed through Board of Education Budget meetings, media and the Freeport Public Schools website

Board of Education

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FREEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Legislative Priorities 2023

FREEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Pre-K Funding

- Revise funding formula that has not changed since 2008 to cover rising costs
- Aid Pre-K transportation

Increase Fund Balance Reserve Allowance for Districts

- Districts should maintain unrestricted fund balances in line with other governmental entities rather than being constrained by an artificially low, unsound figure
- Financial experts recommend fund balances well exceeding 4%
- NYS is maintaining a fund balance reserve of 15%
- Fund Balance is a fiscal tool against future funding cuts or other unforeseen disruptions

Tax Levy Cap

- Support exemptions of the Property Tax Levy Cap including accounting for increasing enrollments, rising special education costs, pensions costs, etc.
- Eliminate negative tax levy caps
- Change tax cap from levy amount to total budget
- Set the minimum tax cap allowable growth at 2% to allow for weathering inflation
- Repeal the supermajority requirement

Provide Mandate Relief

- Fully fund any new mandates
- Provide relief for unfunded or underfunded mandates including unaccompanied minors, and special education

Charter Schools Reform

- Establish equivalent accountability & transparency requirements
- New charter school funding stream to hold harmless losses inflicted on district students

Increase State Funding for Growing Student Needs & Services

- Districts have increased spending on health & wellness, school safety, English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities

After years of advocacy, the initial promise Foundation Aid is now being kept. However, the state still needs to address deficiencies in the Foundation Aid formula to assure a fair share of state aid for the Long Island Region.

- Determine actual cost of providing each student with the opportunity for future success based on all current conditions and regulations
- Adjust weightings in the formula assigned to poverty, disabilities, English language learners, enrollment growth and regional costs
- Review the impact of student-based district wealth factors
- Need a plan for the future
- Improve data collection for measuring student poverty
- Update the regional cost index

No set aside funding—allow for flexibility in the use of state aid