



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S.528 (Mayer)/A.3430 (Conrad)

An act to amend the education law, in relation to the salaries of certain teachers and aids employed by boards of cooperative educational services

BOCES of New York State, the group representing the district superintendents of the 37 Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) across the state **supports** the above referenced legislation and urges its immediate passage.

Over the years, BOCES programs, including career and technical education (CTE) programs have become a valuable tool, utilized to help prepare New York's students for post-secondary success, whether that be in college or immediately entering the ever-evolving workforce. School districts that utilize BOCES' academic programs and services, are generally eligible to receive state aid as an expense-based aid which reimburses the district for a percentage of their expenditures for these programs. Currently, the BOCES aid ratio only includes the first \$30,000 of eligible staff's salary. While this limitation does not impose a cap on the instructional staff's overall salary, it does limit the amount of aid a school district receives. This limitation imposes budgetary constraints on districts, sometimes forcing them to make difficult decisions, which ultimately may limit their ability to expand or add new programs, thus impacting the range of educational opportunities available to students.

This legislation would help alleviate some of those budgetary constraints by increasing the aidable portion of these salaries, raising it incrementally from \$30,000 to \$60,000 over a period of three years, beginning in school year 2026-2027 and ending in school year 2028-2029. This legislation would also expand and increase aid provided to the Big Five City school districts and other school districts that are not components of BOCES, by including students in 9th grade as well as increasing the maximum special services aid award from \$3,900 to \$4,100 per student.

By increasing the amount of aid, school districts will have more resources available to them, allowing them more financial flexibility to provide a broader range of educational opportunities for students as they prepare for college, the workforce and beyond.

For these reasons, BOCES of New York State **supports** the above referenced legislation and urge its immediate passage. For additional information please contact Julie M. Marlette at jmarlette@hinmanstraub.com.