

## Our Legislative Priorities

- ♦ Change/Update the current Foundation Aid formula
- ♦ Restore the “Save Harmless” Provision in the Foundation Aid Formula
- ♦ Pre-K funding formula update
- ♦ Increase state’s share of funding for student and staff mental health needs and services
- ♦ 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
- ♦ Tax Levy Cap 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

Ms. Maria Jordan-Awalom, President  
Mr. Shuron U. Jackson, Vice President  
Ms. Sunday F. Coward, Trustee  
Ms. Sonia A. Dixon, Trustee  
Mr. Scott A. Richardson, Trustee

Dr. Kishore Kuncham  
*Superintendent of Schools*



**FREEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**235 North Ocean Avenue  
Freeport, NY 11520**

**Phone: 516-867-5200**

**[www.freeportschools.org](http://www.freeportschools.org)**

**FREEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



# Legislative Priorities

# 2024

## Our Legislative Priorities

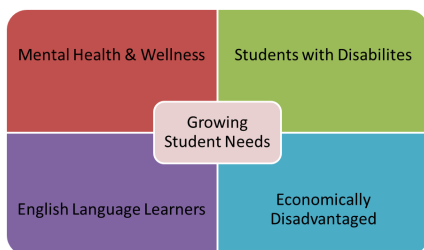
- ♦ Change/Update the current Foundation Aid formula
- ♦ Restore the “Save Harmless” Provision in the Foundation Aid Formula
- ♦ Pre-K funding formula update
- ♦ Increase state’s share of funding for student and staff mental health needs and services
- ♦ Provide relief for unfunded or underfunded mandates
  - Unaccompanied Minors
  - English Language Learners
  - Special Education
- ♦ Increase allowable Fund Balance Reserve for School Districts
- ♦ Charter School Reform
- ♦ Tax Levy Cap Reform

### Pre-K Funding

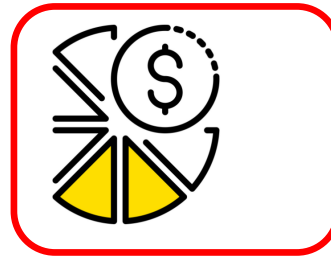
- Revise funding formula that has not changed since 2008 to cover rising costs
- Aid Pre-K transportation
- Provide flexibility of use of allocation

### Increase State Funding for Growing Student Needs & Services

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



## Foundation Aid



**After years of advocacy, the initial promise Foundation Aid is now 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

**Restore the “Save Harmless” Provision in the Foundation Aid Formula.**

## Tax Levy Cap Reform

- 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

### Charter Schools Reform

- Eliminate SUNY’s authority to process, approve and renew charter school applications and have SED handle all approvals
- New charter school funding stream to hold harmless losses inflicted on district students

### 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