



ESSAA

Empire State Supervisors &
Administrators Association

Supporting school leaders. Every day.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Spring 2022

ESSAA continues to be your eyes and ears in Albany as the 2022 legislative season gains momentum. ESSAA has been actively advocating for the issues most relevant to your practice as a school leader with renewed vigor. Through tracking legislation, commenting on proposed legislation, and submitting memorandum in opposition to pending legislation, the ESSAA team has your interests covered.

Spotlight on Priorities

OPPOSITION TO SINGLE PAYER HEALTH. On May 11, 2022, ESSAA submitted [a memo in opposition](#) to the New York Health Act. This Act will amend the public health law and the state finance law to create a government run, “single payer” health care system that would replace New York’s current system of health coverage. The single payer system would be financed by a **mandatory** new payroll tax on both employers and employees, as well as new taxes on other income such as interest and capital gains. Passage of these bills into law would result in:

- The largest state tax increase in the history of the U.S. – more than \$210 billion when fully implemented, and an additional \$42.7 billion to cover the cost of long-term care benefits.
- New Yorkers would not have any choice in their health care coverage with the only option remaining the government-run single payer system.
- A ban on the sale of private health insurance in New York while doing nothing to address the increasing cost of health care.

CLICK HERE TO TAKE ACTION
OPPOSE SINGLE PAYER HEALTH IN NYS

APPR AND TENURE. On May 13, 2022, S8276A was delivered to the Governor for review. Action on the bill is due by May 25, 2022. This bipartisan bill amends the current legislation by making an exception for individuals who did not receive an annual performance review rating during the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and the 2021-2022 school years. Individuals would be eligible to receive tenure if they would have been otherwise qualified had they received a performance review. This amendment would be a one- year extension of existing legislation for the 2021-2022 school year.

STATE BUDGET & PENSION. On April 10, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul and State lawmakers partially rolled back the 2010 and 2012 pension reforms that required new state and local government workers hired under Tiers 5 and 6 to work ten years to be vested in the pension system, instead of five years. Under the new budget, the vestment requirement is returned to five years for Tier 5 and 6 employees. Additionally, for the next two years, a Tier 6 employee’s pension contributions will be calculated using base salary only, excluding overtime worked.

Watch List ([access the full watchlist here](#))

- **COVID-19 Public Employee Death Benefits.** On May 10, 2022, [AB1002/S9119](#) was referred to ways and means committee. This bill would extend the COVID-19 benefit for public employee death benefits until December 31, 2024.
- **Special Education Funding.** [S2654/A1035](#) authorizes school districts to establish an extraordinary needs reserve fund for the expenses of providing special education funding.
- **Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework.** [S8924](#) would require that instruction in public school align to the CR-SE Framework and would require the commissioner of education to update learning standards on an ongoing basis and provide technical assistance and resources to aid public schools in providing such instruction.