



ESSAA

Empire State Supervisors &
Administrators Association

Supporting school leaders. Every day.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Spring 2023

Throughout the first half of the 2023 Legislative Session, the Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Association (ESSAA) has been busy championing the interests of all our constituents and putting your PAC dollars to work, primarily focusing on Senate Bill S1040 (Solutions not Suspensions Act) and Assembly Bill A2033. The tireless efforts of lobbyists **Bob Unger and Tony Laurentino**, who represent ESSAA, deserve recognition for their continual support of our interests in Albany. ESSAA will continue to be your eyes and ears in Albany as the legislative year progresses.

Spotlight on Priorities

EQUITY AND ACCESS; SCHOOL SAFETY: The Advocacy Team has been monitoring Senate Bill S1040 (The Solutions not Suspension Act), a bill concerning school climate, codes of conduct on school property, and equity in disciplinary action after violations of these codes. Notably, the proposed bill placed significant limitations on suspensions, including duration. Following an amendment on June 5, 2023, the bill was recommitted to the Senate Education Committee. In a Senate Education Committee hearing on May 3, **Capital Region President ESSAA, John Rickert, Principal of Niskayuna High School** testified on the difficulties associated with reducing school suspensions. Specifically, he raised concerns about the reduction of suspensions without the provision of effective alternatives that would ensure school safety and foster positive learning environments. However, after an intense late-night debate on June 8, the Senate decided not to advance S1040 from the Education Committee. While the precise objections that culminated in the bill's halt have yet to be publicized, the discourse surrounding the bill was notably contentious. Advocates of the bill, which sought to effect significant reform in school discipline policies, argued that it offered an equitable solution to existing issues, promoting fair disciplinary action and school climate. Conversely, opponents expressed reservations concerning the practicality of the proposed changes and their potential impacts.

- [Read John Rickert's Testimony](#)
- [Watch the NYS Senate Joint Public Hearing on May 3, 2023](#) (*John Rickert's Testimony at 2:42:23*)
- [Read Bill S1040](#)

STUDENT HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH: ESSAA continues to track Assembly Bill A2033/Senate Bill 3036, which addresses the licensure of school psychologists, and has been under the purview of the Assembly Higher Education Committee since its referral on January 23, 2023. This bill seeks to authorize the title "school psychologist" to licensed or exempt individuals, define the practice of school psychology, and establish professional licensure requirements. In support of A2033, the ESSAA legal team has submitted a memorandum to Representative Fahy, urging the bill's release to the Rules Committee. This memorandum underscores the necessity of the bill, arguing for its potential benefits to student mental health and the overall school environment. Notably, the bill would expand the available pool of clinicians by allowing temporary permits to practice while completing the necessary education. [Principal Vincent DiGrande of North Salem Middle/High School](#) played a crucial role in highlighting the urgency of A2033, prompting ESSAA's support of the bill.

- [Read ESSAA's Memorandum in Support of A2033](#)
- [Read Bill A2033](#)

Watch List *(access the full watchlist here)*

A1120/ S1746: Relates to developing and implementing programs to prevent workplace violence in public schools. The bill has been passed by both the Senate and the Assembly and calls for an amendment to the labor law.

A5010A/S5261: This bill, which has passed both the Assembly and the Senate, aims to prohibit the use of corporal punishment, as defined by the Commissioner of Education, in schools.

A7258A/S4041: This bill, which has passed both the Assembly and the Senate, relates to replacing certain instances of the work handicapping conditions with disabilities.