



ESSAA

Empire State Supervisors &
Administrators Association

Supporting school leaders. Every day.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Winter 2023

As the 2023 legislative season opens, ESSAA continues to advocate for the issues most relevant to your practice as a school leader, with a focus on priorities aimed at strengthening our profession. In January, the Assembly and Senate introduced 59 bills related to public education. The areas of Health and Mental Health are receiving significant attention in both houses. Over the course of the year, ESSAA's legislative advocacy activities will include tracking legislation, commenting on proposed legislation, and submitting memorandum regarding proposed legislation.

Spotlight on Priorities

FUNDING FOR STUDENT HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH: Most bills introduced in both the New York State Assembly and Senate that relate to public education address issues of health and mental health. This focus area for legislation includes a wide variety of measures aimed at funding mental health supports within schools, universal mental health screening in grades 7-12, and enhanced training in suicide prevention. Several bills also address access to opioid overdose programs and immunization reporting.

SCHOOL SAFETY: A bill has been introduced to provide additional funding for school safety initiatives, including the hiring of school resource officers. Other bills include measures relating to fingerprinting and background checks for contracted service providers of student support services, and enhanced criminal liability for individuals that assault school employees.

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

In the first month of the 2023 legislative season, there are several key education-related bills being considered:

- [S00054](#): Requires at least one full-time licensed or certified social worker to be employed in each elementary, intermediate, middle, junior high school, and senior high school throughout the state.
- [S01040](#): Relates to school climate and codes of conduct on school property and disciplinary action following violation of such codes of conduct; makes conforming amendments.
- [S01402](#): Requires instruction in public schools aligned to the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework; requires 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.
- [S02312](#): Requires annual screenings for depression of students in grades seven through twelve.
- [S01028](#): Removes the board of trustees of the state university of New York as a charter entity.

