

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE BOARD



Support Legislative Proposals to Give Students Access to Career and Technical Education

New York’s constitution promises, “a system of free common schools, wherein all the children of the state may be educated.” The state’s highest court has interpreted that promise as requiring all students be given the opportunity for a meaningful high school education – one which prepares them to exercise the responsibilities of citizenship and to obtain competitive employment.

Career and Technical Education programs have demonstrated their value in fulfilling our constitution’s promise. Students attending schools that have highly integrated rigorous academic and CTE programs show significantly higher achievement rates in math, reading and science compared with students who attend schools with less integrated programs. They are more likely to complete high school as well. Data also shows that CTE students are better prepared for both careers *and college*.

The Assembly one-house budget proposal recommends increasing funding for CTE statewide by increasing the aidable salary cap for all BOCES teachers from \$30,000 to \$52,000 by the 2021-22 school year and phasing-in funding for ninth graders under Special Services Aid for non-BOCES districts.

The Senate’s proposal would increase the aidable salary cap for BOCES CTE teachers to \$35,000 for the 2018-19 school year and thereafter. The Senate proposal does not provide any increase for Special Services Aid to support CTE programs in the Big 5, where the potential benefit to students is large.

Both houses have sought to address this issue through varying proposals over the last several years. An agreement among all parties has never been reached and this lack of action has drastically hindered the ability of many schools to offer innovative programs that prepare students for a rapidly changing world. This is the year to take action.

It is vital that New York invests in ensuring high-quality CTE programs are available statewide — for the success of our students and for the success of the state’s economy.

The Educational Conference Board strongly supports increasing the aidable salary cap for BOCES teachers and increasing Special Services aid for the 2018-19 school year and urge that these provisions be included in the final enacted budget.