



ESSAA

Empire State Supervisors &
Administrators Association

Supporting school leaders. Every day.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Fall 2023

This fall, the State legislature has been active in addressing several critical areas within the public education sector to foster a more inclusive, safe, and equitable learning environment. Below is the most relevant enacted legislation:

Spotlight on Priorities

PROHIBITION ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT: This legislation mandates the Commissioner of Education to develop and enforce rules and regulations that prohibit the use of corporal punishment within schools across the state. The intent behind this bill is to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment for all students by eliminating the practice of physical discipline within the educational setting.

SCHOOL SAFETY: Known as the “Safe Schools by Design Act,” this bill has been enacted to promote safety within schools through design principles. By addressing safety from a design perspective, the legislation aims to create a secure learning environment for students, staff, and the broader school community. This initiative encourages collaboration between schools, local law enforcement, and community stakeholders to prioritize and enhance school safety through design.

Enacted Legislation

- **S2140:** This legislation directs the Commissioner of Education to issue guidance to school districts for developing programs aimed at attracting underrepresented candidates into the teaching profession.
- **S209:** Requires schools to provide teachers with written informational material on the use of epinephrine auto-injectors. This is a significant step towards ensuring that teachers are equipped with the necessary knowledge and resources to respond to allergic reactions promptly, thereby enhancing student safety in schools across New York State.
- **S5650:** This bill aims to bridge the educational equity gap by expanding access to advanced courses in schools. The bill creates a new section of education law that provides for notice to parents on the availability of advanced courses, and other early college and career experiences.
- **S7573:** Officially recognizes the Asian Lunar New Year as a public school holiday in New York State. The legislation acknowledges the cultural significance of the Asian Lunar New Year and ensures that students and staff can observe this important holiday.

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

- **NEW YORK HEALTH ACT:** This legislation would create a universal health care system and cover all primary, preventative, and specialized medical care for all New Yorkers. ESSAA opposes this bill as it threatens to reduce the level and quality of coverage secured through collectively bargained contracts.
- **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.
- **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.

ESSAA PAC

Please remember [to contribute to the ESSAA PAC!](#) Your contributions are vital in helping the organization to advocate for the educational leaders and students within our schools state-wide. The stronger our voice, the greater our impact. Thank you for your continuous support and engagement in advancing our shared mission.