



December 18, 2018

Dear Fellow Board Members and Superintendents in our Four County Region:

The Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) Steering Committee is pleased to update you on our fall activities and share the 2019 LHEC Regional Advocacy Agenda. The [linked document](#) includes talking points for you to use with your community and local legislators in the upcoming months. The Advocacy Agenda was developed in collaboration with the LHEC's governmental relations firm, Ostroff Associates, to address four key areas:

1. Public Education in our Region
2. Financial Adequacy and Equity
3. School and Student Safety Issues
4. APPR- Measure What Matters

Established in 1976 as a joint project of the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents, the Dutchess County SBA, the Rockland County SBA and the Westchester Putnam SBA, the purpose of the LHEC is to provide information and serve as an advocacy hub for the 77 school districts in our region. Over the last two years, the organization re-defined its methods in order to address the challenges currently affecting our districts in a timely, comprehensive manner. To that end, in April we retained Ostroff Associates, an Albany-based firm that has extensive governmental and educational knowledge, insights, and experience, an understanding of the unique needs of our region, and regular access and communication with governmental staff and legislators.

In a short amount of time, Ostroff Associates has contributed a great deal to our regional advocacy efforts, and has helped us stay ahead of the curve. Their work includes timely letters of support for legislation, regular meetings with the legislative and Governor's staff on our behalf, participation in meetings of the sponsoring organizations, and ongoing communication with the Steering Committee as to how to best address current issues affecting LHEC districts. Over the past 6 months, these have included legislation concerning:

- Closing a loophole in the Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Act, that omitted the notification of a sex offense by employees hired prior to 2001
- BOCES capital costs and the tax cap
- Reversing Hendrick Hudson CSD state aid loss due to a clerical error
- Special Act School District tuition methodology
- A study of taxes paid on state-owned land in our region (was due 12/1)
- BOCES District Superintendent Salary Cap

We hope you find the [linked material](#) useful, and eagerly seek your feedback.

Sincerely,

LHEC Steering Committee