



LOWER
HUDSON
EDUCATION
COALITION

The Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) is counting on your school district's 2018-19 subscription as we begin a new year of action advocacy. With the continued support of school districts in our region, the LHEC will pursue a cohesive, proactive advocacy plan to address the issues that affect our districts.

WHO WE ARE

The school districts in our four counties - Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester - are quite diverse in terms of size, wealth, and demographics, yet there is much more common ground than there are differences. The LHEC stands as one of the few regional coalitions of superintendents and board members. Through a consistent message and strategy, our voices become one and we are more effective in advocating for our students, public education, and our region.

ADVOCACY STRIDES

2017-18 was a transition year filled with conversations and strategic planning that led to hiring an Albany-based government relations firm, Ostroff Associates, in April 2018 to fill the LHEC lobbyist role. The Steering Committee has been impressed with Ostroff's knowledge, access in Albany, responsiveness, and timely monitoring of legislation. Their efforts to date on our behalf include:

- Meeting on a regular basis with legislators and key staff, including the Governor's office, to introduce the work of the LHEC and share our priorities.
- Writing memos to legislators and others regarding pending legislation on issues such as state assessments and teacher evaluations, school funding, special act districts, and TRS reserve.
- Providing timely updates to districts highlighting Ostroff's insights on education legislation.
- Tracking the path of education bills awaiting the Governor's signature.

2018-19 VISION

Partnering with our school districts and Ostroff Associates, we will amplify our regional voice:

- Ostroff Associates will meet with sponsoring organization members to hear your input.
- The LHEC.ORG website will be a regional locus of district resources and advocacy updates.
- We will have regular communications and meetings with NYS Senate, Assembly, Executive Office, and Board of Regents officials and staff to discuss regional issues.
- Our advocacy agenda will be developed well before the Governor's January budget release.
- Ongoing conversations with districts will ensure we are poised to address percolating issues.

WHAT'S YOUR ROLE?

The LHEC needs the financial support of every district in our four-county region. Your district's annual \$875 subscription fee (invoice sent electronically) provides us with the means to serve as a regional leadership hub and spearhead a comprehensive, well-defined advocacy plan in partnership with Ostroff Associates. Thank you in advance for your participation in our regional coalition. Our collective efforts make a difference for public education and the students we serve.

<p>TOGETHER</p> <p>WE</p> <p>REPRESENT</p>			
	<p>77</p> <p>Districts</p>	<p>239,000</p> <p>Students</p>	<p>1,000,000+</p> <p>Voters</p>