



**The Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC)** is counting on your school district's 2019-20 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 diverse in terms of size, wealth, and demographics, yet we have much in common when it comes to advocating for students and on behalf of school districts. As one of the few regional coalitions of superintendents and board members, the LHEC provides a united voice with a regional message focused on public education.

### ADVOCACY STRIDES

The LHEC has been working with Ostroff Associates, an Albany-based government relations firm since 2018, and the Steering Committee has seen value in the inroads and relationships they are cultivating. Ostroff's expertise, access in Albany, responsiveness, and timely monitoring of legislation on our behalf, has been effective. Their efforts to date 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 school and student safety, financial adequacy and equity, teacher evaluations, special act districts, and specific local priorities.
- Tracking the path of education bills awaiting the Governor's signature.
- Focusing support for legislation that targets current issues affecting individual districts and the region.
- Assisting individual districts with navigating the administrative and legislative processes of Albany.

### 2019-20 VISION

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

- LHEC.ORG will continue to be a regional locus of district resources and advocacy updates.
- We will continue to 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 and with School District input.
- Ongoing conversations with districts will ensure we are poised to address percolating issues.
- We will consistently communicate issue and advocacy updates to subscribing districts throughout the legislative year.

### 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.

**TOGETHER  
WE  
REPRESENT**



**77  
Districts**



**239,000  
Students**



**1.7 Million  
Community Members**