



The Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) is counting on your school district's 2020-21 subscription as we begin a new year of public education advocacy. With the continued support of school districts in our region, the LHEC will pursue a cohesive, proactive advocacy plan as we face the implications for school protocols, budgets and aid, of COVID-19 and the resulting economic fallout.

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's continued partnership with Ostroff Associates, an Albany-based government relations firm, has permitted LHEC to quickly change the focus of advocacy from the Legislature to the Governor's office as executive orders became a primary governance mechanism in Albany. Ostroff's relationships with key staff provide opportunities to share LHEC priorities and give input on emerging issues. Inroads made on behalf of our region this year include:

- Timely monitoring of legislation and executive orders regarding COVID-19, education aid, school elections and budget votes.
- Ongoing discussions regarding school aid and advocacy at the state and federal level for public education funding.
- Tracking the path of education bills awaiting the Governor's signature.
- Working with districts on successful individual aid forgiveness bills while advocating for broad legislation.
- Support for Special Act Districts on permitting reserve funds and additional financial flexibility measures.
- Assistance to individual districts in navigating the administrative and legislative processes of Albany.

SUBSCRIPTION BENEFITS

Our collective effort of Superintendents and Boards of Education, working together to share information and advocate on behalf of the public schools we represent, ensures LHEC provides subscribers with:

- A united voice on behalf of public education.
- Access to information and advocacy through a leading Albany-based government relations firm.
- A clearinghouse for regional legislative activities and resources for districts.
- An annual advocacy agenda tailored to the needs of our region.
- Support and resources in Albany to address local 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 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.

