



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Peter Oberacker

## SENATOR OBERACKER PRESSES FOR EDUCATION PRIORITIES

PETER OBERACKER January 29, 2024



**ALBANY – 01/29/24** – Senator Peter Oberacker (R/C-Schenevus) today joined with members of the Senate Republican Conference to unveil a legislative package aimed at keeping education a priority for all New Yorkers. Key among the legislative package’s provisions is reversing the devastating cuts to schools that Governor Hochul included in her budget proposal.

**“Students statewide should have access to a quality education that prepares them for future success – regardless of where they live,”** said Senator Peter Oberacker. **“The governor’s budget is gutting many of the schools I represent and the elimination of the “hold harmless” provision will be**

**devastating for districts that are already struggling. We need to reduce state mandates that are burdensome and unnecessary and ensure that our schools – all of our schools – are receiving their fair share of state aid.”**

The elimination of the “hold harmless” provision that provides critical stability to local school districts is a glaring example of Albany Democrats’ misplaced priorities. This bloated \$233 billion budget siphons state aid away from local schools while dedicating \$2.4 billion in taxpayer dollars earmarked for migrants, bringing the total to \$4.3 billion over the last two years.

The migrant crisis continues to get worse because the Democrats refuse to put an end to wrongheaded sanctuary city policies. Instead, they continue to throw more money at the issue and away from programs that provide for our New York families, including school aid.

Education should always be among the top priorities for state government, and the Senate Republican Conference is committed to ensuring that New Yorkers' hard earned tax dollars help schools obtain the resources they need.

The legislative package unveiled today includes proposals that will keep our students safe and improve educational outcomes in school throughout the state:

- Reversing misguided changes in the education formula proposed in the Executive Budget that will take resources away from our local schools;
- Closing the pandemic learning loss gap by ensuring unspent Federal emergency relief aid supports academic recovery programs, expanding state grant funding, creating an office in the State Education Department to track outcomes of such programs and focusing on future aid increases for early education to ensure students are provided a solid

foundation for future academic challenges;

- Prohibiting the housing of migrants in K-12 schools or on school grounds throughout the state (S.7391, Senator Alexis Weik); and
- Committing greater resources for school building security by creating a school resource officer program to permit the employment of retired law enforcement officers and provide grants to school districts and non-public schools. (S.4985, Senator Oberacker).

**“From the moment the governor laid out her budget proposal I have heard from a number of concerned school superintendents, teachers, and parents. By cutting school aid, property taxes will be going up in areas that can least afford to take the hit and more people will be packing up and leaving our state. I will be pressing for changes to ensure our schools and our students are not shortchanged,”** added Senator Oberacker.

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RELATED LEGISLATION

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## **2023-S4985**

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- Introduced

- ○ In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- ○ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
- ○ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Relates to a school resource officer program

February 21, 2023

In Senate Committee [Education](#)

Sponsored by [Peter Oberacker](#)

Do you support this bill?

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## 2023-S7391

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- Introduced

- ○ In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
  
- ○ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
  
- ○ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
  
- Delivered to Governor
  
- Signed By Governor
  
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Prohibits the permanent or temporary housing of migrant populations in schoolhouses or on school grounds in districts outside of a city with a population of one million or more

May 22, 2023

In Senate Committee [Education](#)

Sponsored by [Alexis Weik](#)

Do you support this bill?