

Modernize BOCES District Superintendent Compensation

S.33 (DeFrancisco)/A.3547 (Nolan)
PASSED SENATE

June 11, 2015

THE COUNCIL SUPPORTS this proposal to modernize the current cap on BOCES District Superintendent Salaries.

This proposed legislation would update the base year calculation for salaries paid to District Superintendents of Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES).

Currently, salaries of BOCES District Superintendents are statutorily capped at 98% of the salary of the Commissioner of Education as of baseline year 2003-2004. The baseline year used to calculate this applicable percentage has not been amended in over a decade, leaving District Superintendents at a calculated salary level that is actually 78% of the Commissioner's current salary.

This bill would set the cap at 98% of the Education Commissioner's 2015-2016 salary. For District Superintendents subject to the current cap, this increase would be phased-in by limiting pay increases to no more than 6% per year.

To be clear about the intent of this legislation, it would simply update a calculation that is outdated by transferring the same legislative intent, as previously executed in 2003, to the current year. THE COUNCIL does not support a cap of any kind on salaries of our educational leaders. These are accomplished individuals leading multi-million dollar organizations. Their work hours far exceed the bounds of a normal work day, and their responsibilities to their teachers, students, and communities are considerable.

BOCES District Superintendents represent leaders among leaders. By law, they are the State Education Commissioner's representatives in the field. In that role they are called upon to guide implementation of complex state initiatives and to lead interventions in troubled schools and districts. They not only coordinate shared-services, efficiencies, training, and exceptional educational programs within their component districts, but they also often assist those districts in choosing their own school superintendents.

BOCES District Superintendents have been receiving the same pay for over a decade. The job has not gotten any easier, and they have been doing considerably more with fewer resources. Failure to bring BOCES District Superintendents' salaries into the modern age is currently creating concern as to the state's ability to recruit and retain professionals to these important positions.

THE COUNCIL therefore SUPPORTS this legislation to modernize BOCES District Superintendent salaries and urges lawmakers adopt it immediately.