



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Authorizes Regional High Schools

S.3778 (Young)/A.6165 (Nolan)
S.4795 (Young)

April 29, 2013

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The New York State Council of School Superintendents SUPPORTS efforts to establish Regional High Schools, and urges attention

These bills would authorize school districts to enter into a contract to establish and operate regional high schools.

We support the establishment of regional high schools and will continue to work to ensure that all districts, especially rural and poor districts, have the necessary tools and resources to provide a meaningful and demanding high school program for all students.

Declining enrollment and the difficulties associated with mergers or tuitioning out students leaves certain areas of the state in desperate need for regional high schools and other consolidated services. Many districts in rural and poor areas are running out of both money and students to provide a full and meaningful educational experience. In addition to fiscal insolvency, many districts are experiencing educational insolvency: their educational programs for their students are no longer meeting the demands of our global economy.

We still have some concerns about certain provisions in the bill, and will continue to work with bill sponsors to see that they are addressed.

Especially now with the advent of the tax cap and cap on State Aid, efforts such as regional high schools and real meaningful mandate relief are imperative for the survival of our educational system.

Regional high schools will allow greater educational opportunities and a more fulfilling high school experience.