



# MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

## *Authorizes Regional High Schools*

S.5184-C (Young)/A.8002-B (Nolan)

May 21, 2012

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

This legislation would authorize two or more school districts in certain counties to enter into a contract to establish and operate a regional high school.

We support the establishment of regional high schools and will continue to work with the bill sponsors to ensure that 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, but the bill sponsors have committed to working with districts and advocates to ensure a workable and implementable regional high school program.

Especially now with the advent of the tax cap, 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, in particular, rural students greater access to Advanced Placement courses, greater educational opportunities, and a more fulfilling high school experience.

*We **support** the establishment of regional high schools and urge the legislature to reform many of the costly educational mandates and working with educational advocates look for ways to reduce costs and support greater learning for our State's students. In this economic reality, with the imposition of a tax cap, depleted reserves and with previous education spending cuts or freezes, we all must work collaboratively to support vital services and programs to students.*