



Mandate Relief Issues

Mandate relief is necessary if school districts are required to pay for costly state mandated programs despite the fact that state aid is being reduced.

Mandate relief should be in direct proportion to the state aid lost. With no additional cost to the state, eliminating mandates would save school districts millions of dollars:

<p>Services to children</p>	<p>Voluminous reporting requirements – STEP, NYS School Report Cards, Uniform Violent Incidents, Shared Decision Making, Facility Report Card, etc. NO REPORT IS EVER DISCONTINUED AS NEW ONES ARE ADDED. A paperwork reduction bill prepared by SED has been supported by the NYS Senate but has not been voted upon in the Assembly in five separate sessions!!!</p> <p>Special Education requirements remain under funded since law created When enacted, IDEA was to be funded at the 40% level but has never been funded above 26% (which includes the current temporary federal stimulus funds. NYS has additional requirements that drive the cost of special education even higher, adding an estimated \$1.3 billion more to the annual cost.</p> <p>Expensive prescriptive Academic Intervention Services</p> <p>Limited flexibility and complicated time-consuming reporting requirements of the Contracts for Excellence regulations, which direct state aid to new programs undercutting support for continuing programs.</p> <p>State and federal funding with different, sometimes conflicting rules, complicates making cuts when funding is reduced.</p> <p>Lack of component retesting as originally promised when the state went to an all-Regents program (results in students unnecessarily repeating entire classes)</p> <p>Providing transportation, special education programs, health services, textbooks and library materials for private/parochial students.</p>
<p>Personnel issues</p>	<p>Taylor Law requirements that limit districts’ ability to change salary adjustments or benefits.</p> <p>Laws that restrict the ability of school districts to dismiss teachers who are convicted of felonies or who fail to maintain (certification/licensure) without using the expensive §3020-a process.</p> <p>Triborough Amendment reinforcing union resistance to change (benefits continue despite contract expiration).</p>
<p>Others</p>	<p>WICKS Law constraints still interfering with most school district construction project bidding</p>

Relief from other mandates would benefit schools by requiring that the state government financially support the laws it has enacted, transferring the cost from local property tax to the more progressive state income tax. Among the most expensive of such mandates are the following:

- State financing of public employee pension;
- SAVE requirements –e.g., training, fingerprinting at district cost;
- Charter School funding from local district budgets.