



How the Regents & SED can help School Districts be cost effective

To cope with reductions in state support for education and enable funding to be optimally used, school districts need the state government and the State Education Department to provide greater flexibility as an antidote to well-intentioned but overly prescriptive laws and regulations. While determining how to best serve their students' needs, school districts should be enabled to do their work as efficiently as possible.

<p>Mandates</p>	<p>Eliminate Unfunded Mandates and do not impose any more!</p> <p>As the Regents develop new initiatives they need to be cognizant of the resources needed to implement new programs and services at the district level.</p>
<p>Academic Intervention Services</p>	<p>AIS is a costly prescriptive service that could be more efficiently provided if local districts were allowed to determine how best to help their identified students.</p> <p>Monroe County school districts spend over \$33 million on AIS annually, and could save millions if allowed to organize the support differently.</p>
<p>Additional IDEA mandates</p>	<p>The SED's own report identifying New York State's additional services and due process procedures for special education runs 29 pages and lists over 200 items.</p> <p>These additional requirements add an estimated \$2 billion a year in costs over what New Yorkers would pay if our laws conformed to federal regulations.</p> <p>New York's additional regulations have created a highly inflexible continuum of services which prevents introducing more research based, cost-effective programs and procedures</p>
<p>Dedicated Funding Streams</p>	<p>Dedicated new funding streams (C4E, ARRA) can provide helpful new revenue but can become difficult and costly to manage in a time of fiscal retrenchment. When revenues are reduced, keeping these rules undermines a district's ability to maintain effective locally developed programs.</p> <p>The rigidity of the aid's purpose prevents optimal local decision making when boards are forced to cut programs and services.</p>
<p>Foundation Formula</p>	<p>Support the continued use of the Foundation Formula.</p> <p>The point of the formula was to connect needs with the distribution of funding and to improve planning by using a predictable formula.</p> <p>Creating new formulas to calculate deficit reductions negates the value of the formula.</p>