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SAANYS SUPPORTS A. 10569 (Nolan) De-link School Aid from Principal and Teacher Evaluations

SAANYS supports legislation put forth by Assembly Education Chair Catherine Nolan to delink principal and teacher APPR plans from state aid increases prior to the 2019-2020 school year. SAANYS has been diligent in calling for such a separation of the two, most recently during its May lobbying day in Albany.

Under revisions enacted to the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) law in 2015, school districts face the loss of two years of state aid if they are unable to negotiate revised evaluation plans with their principal and teacher unions and gain approval for those plans from the State Education Department by September 1, 2016.

Assemblywoman Nolan's proposal (A. 10569) would permit districts to retain eligibility for school aid increases through 2018-19 so long as they continue to conduct educator evaluations using a plan approved by the State Education Department under either the 2015 statute (Education Law section 3012-d), or the prior law (§3012-c).

Throughout the legislative session, SAANYS has recommended just this – that school districts and BOCES be permitted to implement APPR plans under §3012-c or §3012-d, as is the case this year, without forfeiting their scheduled state aid increases. The time and fiscal resources of schools and districts is limited and finite. In addition, even as efforts to develop new evaluation plans proceed, most educators agree that the APPR law is so flawed that these efforts will have no actual value on improving teaching or school leadership. Thus, many would rather operate under §3012-c until an appropriate evaluation system is designed and focus resources on what really matters – providing quality instruction and enhanced learning.