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6/19/2018

SUPPORT

A.7966-C – Peoples-Stokes
Passed Assembly

S.6551-C – Jacobs
Passed Senate

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts strongly supports A.7966-C (Peoples-Stokes)/S.6551-C (Jacobs), which would reimburse school districts outside of New York City for supplemental charter school tuition payments in the current school year.

This measure would eliminate the one-year lag for supplemental charter school tuition payment reimbursement that is currently imposed upon school districts. Under this proposal, school districts would receive reimbursement for supplemental charter school tuition payments in the same year in which the payments are made thereby allowing school districts to utilize their state aid increases next year without offsets. While the timing of the payments would change, there would be no fiscal impact to the State.

Our school districts are facing significant budgetary challenges and they cannot afford to advance funds for the State and wait until the following school year to be paid back. Requiring them to do so places an unnecessary and onerous burden on them, negatively impacts their ability to fully support critical programs and denies enhanced opportunities for their students. Reimbursing school districts in the same school year that these payments are made would free up scarce funds and enable them to put more resources into classrooms and toward efforts to improve student achievement without impacting the State.

This legislation passed the Assembly overwhelmingly by 137-1 this year and there is no reported opposition. For all of the above stated reasons, the Conference of Big 5 School Districts urges your support and approval of A.7966-C (Peoples-Stokes)/S.6551-C (Jacobs).