

South Seneca Central School District

2015 Legislative Priorities

1. Totally eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA)

- With a state budget surplus there is no gap to be eliminated!
- Eliminating the GEA would raise SSCSD revenues by \$530,000 (2.4%).

2. Increase Foundation Aid and Reform the Aid Formula

- Fully fund the "sound basic education" called for by the State's highest court
- Change the formula to make it more equitable, thus serving small rural schools.

3. Oppose increasing the number of charter schools

- Limit charter schools to city school districts
- Realize that charter schools directly reduce funding for local public schools.

4. Replace the Tax Freeze with a straight Circuit Breaker system

- Annual tax levy reductions based on shared services are unrealistic and unfair.
- Rebates should be based simply on the property tax as a percent of total income.

5. Reduce unfunded mandates, now 87% of school expenditures

- Provide funding for professional development to implement the Common Core.
- Allow school districts to use lever voting machines they already own.

6. Reform tenure laws

- Increase to five years the minimum service time for teacher and principal tenure.
- Do not base Annual Professional Performance Reviews on student test scores.

7. - Maintain expense-based aid

- Districts have already made purchases expecting to be aided next year.
- Technology purchases under the Smart Bond Act should be made this way.

8. Pass an on-time budget!

- School districts must have budget runs by April 1 for May budget votes.
- Policy issues should not prevent an on-time State budget.

