

## **5 LEGISLATIVE IDEAS TO REDUCE SCHOOL TAXES & IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL QUALITY**

- **1. Eliminate the provision in the TriBorough Amendment which requires all STEP increases in current teacher contracts to remain in force pending the signing of any new contract. This would equalize the pressure on Teacher Unions & Boards of Education to come to an agreement; today Teacher Unions are under little pressure to agree to a new contract, and instead all pressure is on school boards facing anxious parents concerned that “unhappy” teachers will not perform as well as they should.**
- **2. Replace perpetual tenure with tenure to be renewable every 5 years for teachers and administrators. This would greatly facilitate replacement of ineffective teachers and administrators, and thereby improve educational quality.**
- **3. Change Wicks Law which prohibits school districts from engaging a single contractor for large school construction projects. This would give school districts better control of, and ability to reduce, large construction costs.**
- **4. Change state law to (a) require school district employees to contribute 5 to 6% of their salaries to their pension funds, and, (b) eliminate the inclusion of overtime in the calculation of employee pensions.**
- **5. (a) Pass an Educational Tax Credit bill for donations to any public school or private school scholarship fund, *and/or*  
(b) Provide refundable Tuition Tax Credits for children attending non-public schools up to an amount equal to 1/3 of average NYS public school costs/pupil. Phase out tax credit for those with incomes > \$250,000/yr.**

Tax credits provided at 1/3 the cost of a public school education will increase parental choice in education, especially for low and middle income parents, AND save taxpayers money. By enabling low and middle income parents to place their children in private or parochial schools at one-third the cost of a public school education, and by keeping such private schools open, would result in significant cost savings for taxpayers. A study done by a special Commission for the NYS Senate in 1991 (see *NY Times*, 11/24/91) concluded such parental choice in education would result in savings of \$4 billion/year in 1991 (*today that would be taxpayer savings of over \$8 billion/year*). The resulting competition would also result in public schools having to improve their educational quality. This is a win for all students, parents & taxpayers!

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