

## Consolidation, One Core Curriculum, Students before Staff

The only way to successfully prepare all New York's students to be college and career ready is by consolidating school districts into countywide districts, developing a state wide core curriculum and diluting the political power of municipal unions.

**CONSOLIDATION** . The current school district system is unaccountable, inefficient, and spending is out of control. We have 724 school districts in New York State. The need for the consolidation becomes obvious when you compare their per pupil cost per school district and test score results.

The advantages of Countywide Districts include:

1. Standardized class size
2. Standardized per pupil spending
3. Standardized special education
4. Standardized mandated interpretations that can fluctuate as much as \$20,000 per student
5. Standardized use of property
6. Standardized use of education materials and supplies
7. Standardized bidding
8. Better and more cost effective transportation
9. Reduced need for duplicate administrators
10. Reduced union contract negotiations
11. Consolidated employee benefits, services, school supplies and transportation
12. Permits better educational opportunity by creating schools for performing arts, science, aerospace, etc.
13. Breaks down the social and economic conditions that create disparities like Brentwood –v- Commack
14. Holds state elected officials accountable for results and cost
15. Countywide districts will provide more choice and equal opportunity to students than vouchers

**ONE CORE CURRICULUM** The State Constitution requires the State to provide an equal education to all students. In order for the state to effectively do this, the state needs a single statewide core curriculum. Curriculum is an exercise. Good exercise develops good results, bad exercise doesn't

The reasons for a single statewide core curriculum include:

1. Good curriculum will prepare students to be college or career ready
2. 724 local curriculums cannot create a standard result or be tested effectively
3. Bad curriculum like the "New Math " & "Goals 2000: caused irreparable harm to thousands of our students.
4. Phonics and whole language have become a hodgepodge rather than two distinct reading programs.
5. You cannot create an equal education with multiple curriculums

**STUDENTS BEFORE STAFF** Our current system of 724 school districts is incapable of providing cost effective quality education because municipal unions dominate local elected officials. This has led to an "employees first, punish the excellent, protect the incompetent, strive for mediocrity without accountability policy that deprives our students of the best educators. Union control of elected school boards has resulted in bonanza union contracts. The cost of union dominated education has heavily contributed to the exodus of our youth. Countywide school consolidation will eliminate finger pointing and holds state and county elected officials accountable.