

Mandate Review Request #2013080001

Note: All information below was provided by the local government/business/Mandate Relief Council Member requesting that a mandate be reviewed. Neither the Council nor its staff has verified the accuracy of the information provided or made any other edits.

Name of Local Government: QUEENSBURY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Type of Local Government: School District
County: WARREN

Name of Mandate: Resolution for Advocacy and Mandate Relief

Type of Mandate: Regulation/Rule/Order

Citation for Mandate: Mandate Relief (Compounding mandates with multiple citations)

Description of Mandate: 1. Reform the state aid distribution system to provide for more equity.
2. Reform, remove or refuse to create additional unfunded/underfunded state mandates.
3. Reform the current pension systems and provide employers with relief from unsustainable health benefit costs.

The Queensbury Board of Education has made significant reductions to critical components of the annual school budget as rising costs outpaced revenue. Queensbury has reduced 75 staff positions (13.4% of staff) since 2009. Queensbury has reduced classes at the elementary, middle, and high schools. Queensbury has reduced services for students at all grade levels. The reductions came out of the need to create a balanced budget despite the imbalance between expenditures and revenue.

This disturbing trend must be addressed and immediate action must be taken to prevent long-term negative effects on the quality of public education for Queensbury children. The Queensbury UFSD Board of Education calls on the New York State Legislaure and Governor Andrew Cuomo to take immediate action.

Recommended Change: 1. Reform the state aid distribution system to provide for more equity.
2. Reform, remove or refuse to create additional unfunded/underfunded state mandates.
3. Reform the current pension systems and provide employers with relief from unsustainable health benefit costs.

Estimated Savings from the Recommended Change to the Local Government:
\$5,787,053.00

Estimated Statewide Savings from the Recommended Change:

Description of Methodology Used in Estimating Savings: \$3,482,053 2012-13 GEA bottom line state aid reduction.

\$ 460,000 2013-14 Step Increase mandated by Triborough Amendment.

\$ 895,000 2013-14 Increase in ERS/TRS Pension Contributions

\$ 950,000 2013-14 Increase in Health Ins. Premium Payments