

**Frontier Central School District  
ADVOCACY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
Wednesday, Oct 27, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Google Meet joining info**

**Video call link:** <https://meet.google.com/eok-ikgv-ghw>

**Or dial:** (US) +1 316-742-1376 PIN: 408 841 226#

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION
  - Mission: To be an effective, energetic, and focused Advocate for the 4,600+ students of the District.
  - Vision: Every child receives the education they—need and deserve—to pursue their passions, goals, aspirations, and dreams.
  
2. DISCUSSION OF ACTIVITY SINCE LAST MEETING ON SEP. 29th.
  - Roundtable
  - Following up on previous topics
  
3. NYSER v. NYS
  - See attachment
  
4. CLOSING
  - Upcoming meetings November 17 & December 15



# **NYSER New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Major New York Constitutional School-Funding Case Settled**

### ***Stakeholder Coalition Achieves Agreement Staying Landmark Education-Rights Case Conditioned on State Fulfilling Commitment to \$4.2 Billion in School Aid by FY 2024***

NEW YORK, October 13, 2021: After seven years of litigation between a coalition of public education stakeholders and the State, attorneys for the parties today signed an agreement to settle the lawsuit, *New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights v. State of New York*, contingent on the State making good on its commitment to fully pay out approximately \$4.2 billion in school aid over three years.

Last spring, the New York State Legislature enacted legislation promising to pay out the long-promised funds sought through the litigation to New York City and other high-need school districts throughout the State. If the State honors its commitments, the case will be dismissed. If not, the Plaintiffs will be able to continue the litigation and seek an expedited trial to secure the promised funding. Plaintiffs believe today's agreement will be an important enforcement mechanism to ensure that the State lives up to its constitutional obligation to adequately fund a sound basic education for all New York students.

In announcing the parties' agreement during a press conference today, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul acknowledged that "...the State is no longer pursuing the Foundation Aid lawsuit [*NYSER v. State of New York*] that occupied many people's time. ...That legal battle is over and...we have officially settled the lawsuit. Gov. Hochul also announced, "The money was put in the budget last time; we will make sure the money is there going forward."

The case was brought by New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights (NYSER), a coalition of parents, students and groups representing other stakeholders in the public education system, as well as a number of individual parents. The plaintiffs – represented by pro bono counsel at the law firms Morgan Lewis & Bockius and White & Case; Michael A. Rebell, Esq., a Professor and Executive Director of the Center for Educational Equity at Teachers College, Columbia University and the Education Law Center – filed *NYSER v. State of New York* in 2014 to compel the State to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula, the school funding system established in the landmark *Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) v. State of New York* decision.

The NYSER coalition includes major statewide organizations such as the New York State School Boards Association, the New York State Council of School Superintendents, the New York State PTA, the New York State Association of School Business Officials, The Statewide School Finance Consortium, the Rural Schools Association, Reform Education Finance Inequities Today (R.E.F.I.T.), 13 of New York's Community Education Councils, and other parent and educational advocacy groups from New York City and around the state. Individual parents from the Schenectady school district joined New York City parents and students as plaintiffs in the case.

Michael Rebell, co-counsel for the plaintiffs stated, "Unequal funding has been a blight on education in New York State since DeWitt Clinton was governor. We still have a great deal of work to do. But this was

a big first step. The state now needs to update and improve the Foundation Aid formula that was based on a calculation made 15 years ago in order to provide all students the opportunity for a sound basic education guaranteed to them by the state constitution. We need a new system that will ensure adequate and equitable funding for all students on a permanent, stable basis for the future."

Jay Worona, the President of NYSER and Deputy Executive Director of the New York State School Boards Association, said that "Our members and the millions of school children throughout the state who they represent deeply appreciate the great effort and many long hours that the law firms and attorneys who representing NYSER have devoted to this case on a *pro bono* basis."

Full compliance with Foundation Aid will require the State to appropriate for FY 2023 an additional \$1.4 billion for education statewide, \$530 million of which will go to New York City's public schools and similar amounts for FY 2024.

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