



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael H. Ranzenhofer

# **Ranzenhofer Recognized As Champion For Rural Schools**

Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer

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The Rural Schools Association of New York State (RSA) has recognized Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer with an Appreciation Award for his advocacy and leadership on behalf of rural schools in Western New York and across New York State.

“The Rural Schools Association of New York State is proud to honor the efforts of Senator Ranzenhofer with our annual Appreciation Award. Senator Ranzenhofer’s tireless efforts to eliminate the harmful Gap Elimination Adjustment from school funding was of tremendous benefit to all schools. His recognition of the impact of unfunded mandates on school districts and his collaborative approach to working with those he represents serve as examples of the leadership needed to support our rural school districts,” said RSA Executive Director David A. Little.

Ranzenhofer was the first to organize a forum at Genesee Community College for rural school districts to express the negative impact of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) budget cuts with then Senate Education Committee Chairman John Flanagan in November 2011. Earlier this year, Ranzenhofer successfully worked to eliminate the GEA once and for all.

“Fighting for our rural schools has been one of my legislative priorities, and it is such an honor to be recognized for my efforts,” said Ranzenhofer. “The GEA budget cuts were even more severe to the bottom lines of rural school districts. Ending the GEA is a major victory for students and parents, and I am proud to champion their cause.”

Genesee Valley Educational Partnership Board Member & RSA Zone Four Director Edward Engel nominated Ranzenhofer for the honor.

"Senator Ranzenhofer has been a steadfast supporter of our rural schools. He is a true legislative partner who listens and understands first, then collaborates to find solutions. For example, he helped to jump start a new Agri-Business program for high school seniors. In a data-driven world, agriculture education programs continue to deliver more significant value than any report or test can demonstrate in the lives of our students," said Engel.

Since 2013, Ranzenhofer has secured \$100,000 in state funding annually to support the Agri-Business Academy at the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership. The one-year program helps high school seniors– from across school districts in Genesee County– explore careers in the agri-business industry.

### **About the Rural Schools Association of New York State (RSA)**

The Rural Schools Association is a statewide, member driven organization dedicated to representing the interests of small and rural school districts in New York State. Approximately 320 school districts and BOCES units are currently enrolled as members of RSA. In addition to the financial support provided by RSA members, supplemental assistance is given by New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University, in the form of office facilities, utilities, clerical assistance, and the use of equipment.

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