

2023-J551

Senate Resolution No. 551

BY: Senator MAYER

COMMEMORATING the 75th Anniversary of the Southern
Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational
Services

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which are committed to enhancing the quality of education in the State of New York, and which enable our schools to offer excellent educational programs in the most efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services; and

WHEREAS, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) are an integral component of New York State's public education system, providing special education services to more than 16,000 students annually, as well as career and technical education opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1984, by the New York State Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents, the Southern Westchester BOCES programs and services have been unparalleled in meeting the unique needs of New York's students, school districts, business, and industry; and

WHEREAS, Southern Westchester BOCES Centers provide more than 70 services to help school districts, teaching and administrative professionals, students, and the public with needs in the areas of special education, career and technical education, transportation, interscholastic athletics, adult and community services, technology, and professional learning; and

WHEREAS, Southern Westchester BOCES provides shared educational and management services to schools and school districts in its geographic region; from those beginnings, SWBOCES has grown to offer hundreds of cooperative, cost-efficient services to school districts in the region, encompassing 187 different schools, 104,000 students, and more than 650,000 adults who live and work in the area; and

WHEREAS, Leaders in innovation, BOCES funds efforts toward equity and inclusion, supporting professional learning for educators, and developing new programs and services to meet the changing needs of the state's students and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this vital organization provides professional development to countless educators each year, serving as a link between local schools and the State Education Department; and

WHEREAS, Southern Westchester BOCES specifically assists school districts by introducing and responding to program requests and initiatives both from local districts and from the state Education Department, providing services, facilities and personnel to meet mutual

needs identified on a regional cooperative basis, determining ongoing educational trends and challenges, and preparing districts for what lies ahead, receiving and administering grants for a broad array of services for students, staff members, and community residents; and

WHEREAS, A partner to both industry and higher education, New York BOCES chapters collaborate with more than 2,000 colleges and universities, giving students the opportunity to further their education at the post-secondary level; each year, over 20,000 New Yorkers earn their high school equivalency and study English as a second language with BOCES services and programs; and

WHEREAS, Southern Westchester BOCES believes in the value of trust, respect, and collaboration, with goals and commitment to being proven leaders in their field, seeking excellence always, in providing high quality and support; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, Southern Westchester BOCES may look back with pride upon its humble beginnings, find just satisfaction in its purposeful growth, and hold true of purpose in its commitment to serving the educational needs of the citizens of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services, noting the propriety of its goals, the constancy of its commitment and the significance of its accomplishments in preparing the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).