

WRITTEN ONLY

**Buffalo Council of Supervisors and Administrators Local #10**

**Buffalo, New York**

**Testimony to be Delivered to the**

**Joint Legislative Hearing of the**

**Assembly Ways and Means Committee**

**&**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**On**

**Executive Budget Proposals for Education**

**SFY 2013-2014**

**By: W. Charles Brandy**

**January 29, 2013**

Good morning. My name is W. Charles Brandy, and I am an executive member of the Buffalo Council of Supervisors and Administrators (BCSA) Local #10 located in Buffalo, New York. I am honored to speak on behalf of BCSA's President Crystal Boling-Barton and the 200 members of BCSA which consist of principals, assistant principals, directors, supervisors, and project administrators of the Buffalo Public Schools.

Thank you for holding this hearing to focus attention on funding Elementary and Secondary Education.

The Buffalo Public Schools is the second largest district in the State of New York with an enrollment of 32,816 students in 2011-12 and is projected to enroll 32,291 students in 2012-13. Over 70 languages are spoken daily and 89% of the District's student population is considered economically disadvantaged. There are 38 elementary, 17 secondary and two special schools, covering an area of approximately 42 square miles in the Buffalo Public Schools. Approximately 7,187 students are projected to be enrolled in 16 charter schools that are financially supported, but not administered, by the Buffalo Public Schools.

The Buffalo Council of Supervisors and Administrators, in collaboration with the Buffalo Teacher's Federation and Superintendent Brown and her team, successfully met the Governor's requirement for developing an appropriate Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) evaluation plan for principals and administrators. The Buffalo Public Schools offers Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Law Magnet, Career and Technical Education programs; an array of traditional courses. However, over 20 schools have been designated as persistently low-performing or priority schools. As a result, Buffalo is home to the first Distinguished New York State Educator.

The Buffalo Council of Supervisors and Administrators supports New York State funding in the State budget for the following:

- 1) Increase Foundation Aid to the Buffalo Public Schools. While the Buffalo Public Schools received an increase in Foundation Aid in 2011-12, the aid increase was insufficient to offset the increases in structural deficits: charter payments, annual compensation steps, health insurance premiums, pension contributions, and other inflationary increases. It is also worth noting that the Buffalo Public Schools received \$135.7 million less in Foundation Aid due to the Gap Elimination Adjustment.
  
- 2) Creation of a Leadership Center in Buffalo, similar to New York City CSA's highly successful *Educational Leadership Centers*, strategically located so that Principals, Assistant Principals and other Education Administrators in Buffalo are afforded easy access to resource materials, experts and networking opportunities with other educators in the area. Such centers will afford School Leaders an opportunity to hone their skills as well as learn from colleagues.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony today.