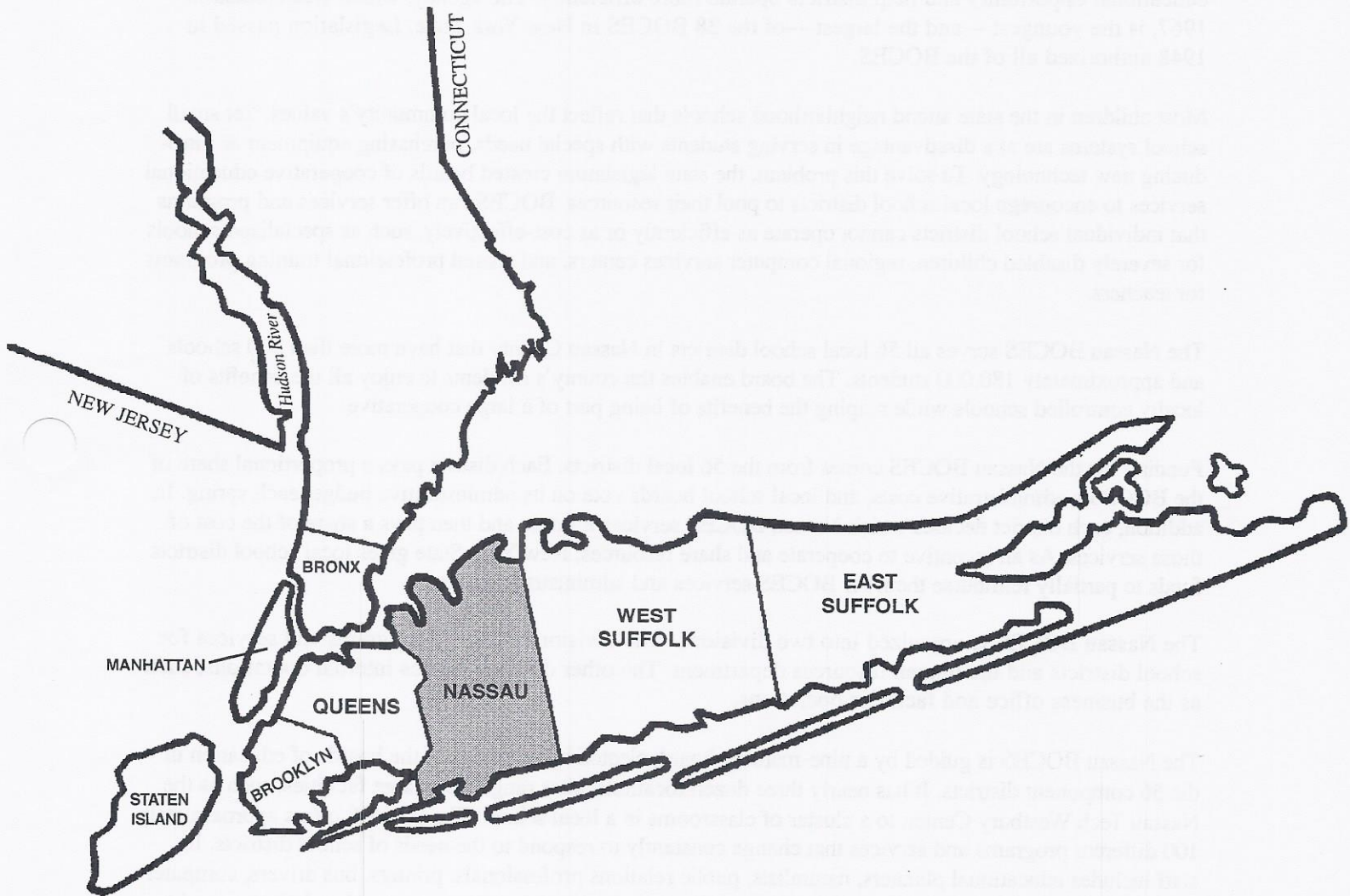


# NASSAU BOCES

## Long Island, New York



## **About Nassau BOCES**

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (Nassau BOCES) serves the 56 school districts of Nassau County, Long Island, by providing cost-effective shared services and programs. These include career training for adults and high school students, special education, alternative schools, technology education and teacher training, as well as numerous initiatives to expand educational opportunity and help districts operate more efficiently. The agency, which was created in 1967, is the youngest—and the largest—of the 38 BOCES in New York State. Legislation passed in 1948 authorized all of the BOCES.

Most children in the state attend neighborhood schools that reflect the local community's values. Yet small school systems are at a disadvantage in serving students with special needs, purchasing equipment or introducing new technology. To solve this problem, the state legislature created boards of cooperative educational services to encourage local school districts to pool their resources. BOCES can offer services and programs that individual school districts cannot operate as efficiently or as cost-effectively, such as specialized schools for severely disabled children, regional computer services centers, and shared professional training programs for teachers.

The Nassau BOCES serves all 56 local school districts in Nassau County that have more than 300 schools and approximately 180,000 students. The board enables the county's residents to enjoy all the benefits of locally controlled schools while reaping the benefits of being part of a large cooperative.

Funding for the Nassau BOCES comes from the 56 local districts. Each district pays a proportional share of the BOCES's administrative costs, and local school boards vote on its administrative budget each spring. In addition, each district decides which Nassau BOCES services it needs and then pays a share of the cost of those services. As an incentive to cooperate and share resources, New York State gives local school districts funds to partially reimburse them for BOCES services and administrative costs.

The Nassau BOCES is organized into two divisions. One division houses all programs and services for school districts and the human resources department. The other division houses internal operations, such as the business office and facilities operations.

The Nassau BOCES is guided by a nine-member board, elected by members of the boards of education in the 56 component districts. It has nearly three dozen locations; sites range from large facilities, such as the Nassau Tech Westbury Center, to a cluster of classrooms in a local school. The BOCES offers approximately 100 different programs and services that change constantly to respond to the needs of school districts. Its staff includes educational planners, naturalists, public relations professionals, printers, bus drivers, computer network technicians, pioneers in the art of data mining, experts in risk management and web designers, in addition to hundreds of classroom teachers and teacher aides. The Nassau BOCES has a total of nearly 3,000 full- and part-time employees.