

BY: Senator STEC

COMMEMORATING the 75th Anniversary of the
Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES

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 Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES, to be celebrated at a special event on Thursday, May 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, The event will be held at the two schools run by Franklin-Essex-Hamilton (FEH) BOCES: Adirondack Educational Center in Saranac Lake and North Franklin Educational Center in Malone; the two events will be joined together through video conferencing, allowing for a truly unifying celebratory experience; 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, the FEH BOCES programs and services have been unparalleled in meeting the unique needs of New York's students, school districts, business, and industry; 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, FEH BOCES got its start when Boards of Cooperative Educational Services were created by New York state law in 1948; the first FEH BOCES Board of Education meeting was held on August 18, 1948, in Brushton, New York, and the first employees were approved to be hired on October 18, 1948; and

WHEREAS, At its start, the BOCES served two school districts in Bombay, two in Moira, one in Dickinson, one in Waverly, and one in Santa Clara; most of the initial work the BOCES provided included nurses and dental care, as well as teachers who split their time between multiple districts; and

WHEREAS, Over the next 75 years, the Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES would grow to cover 10 school districts that encompass all of Franklin County, as well as some districts in Hamilton and Essex counties as well; FEH BOCES now provides a variety of cooperative services to those

school districts, including trades training and alternative education for high school students, GED preparation for adults, support and training for teachers, and business, human resources, and other operational supports; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in a proud and distinguished history, FEH 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 Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to FEH BOCES.