



c/o Eastern Suffolk BOCES, 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, New York 11772
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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members of the Long Island Delegation to the NYS Senate
Members of the Long Island Delegation to the NYS Assembly

FROM: Dr. Julie Davis Lutz, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Walter F. Scharner, Legislative Co-Chair

DATE: February 24, 2016

RE: 10-Point Executive Budget Analysis

Attached is the SCSSA analysis of the Executive Budget proposal for state aid to Long Island schools. Our analysis indicates that the Foundation Formula, a formula that has shortchanged Long Island schools from the day it was introduced, continues to provide an insufficient base level of aid to schools in our region. With this proposal, Long Island schools will receive an aggregate increase of only \$1.4 million in Foundation Aid. If the Foundation Aid formula was fully funded, they would have received an additional \$15 million for the 2016-17 school year. This formula needs to be reworked to be sensitive to the regional needs.

On an immediate basis, the GEA must be fully eliminated this year. The proposal to extend the full restoration of the GEA over two more years is unacceptable. The cumulative loss of \$1.4 billion dollars due to the GEA over the past six years has changed the landscape of Long Island schools in a way that may never be reversible in some districts. Information regarding the impact of the Gap Elimination Adjustment on Long Island schools was already distributed and is available on our website at <http://suffolksuperintendents.org>.

We thank you for your ongoing support of public education on Long Island and look forward to continued work with you. Please feel free to contact any member of our Board of Directors or Legislative Committee to discuss this analysis or our advocacy program.

JDL/WFS/mp

Attachment

c: Suffolk County School Superintendents Association Members
Long Island Education Coalition Member Organizations



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10-Point Executive Budget Analysis 2016-17

1. State aid to public schools in New York State will increase by \$991 million (4.3%).
2. State aid to Long Island schools will increase by \$126.8 million (4.5%). Even with this increase, over 17% of our districts (21) will receive less in state aid (without building aid) in 2016-17 than was received in 2008-09. Three of these districts are low-wealth (CWR <1).
3. Long Island schools educate 16.2% of the state's students, yet will receive only 12.3% of state aid. This is a difference of almost \$857 million for Long Island schools. Our state aid per pupil is 27.3% below the "rest of the state" (\$5,615 vs. \$7,724).
4. Long Island schools will have a Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) restoration of \$39.2 million. There is still over \$78 million of GEA remaining. Long Island schools have lost a total of \$1.4 billion in state aid due to the GEA over the past six years.
5. Long Island has 43 "low-wealth" school districts (CWR <1.0) which enroll nearly one-half (219,281) of the students in the region. Long Island's 43 low-wealth districts will receive \$21 million in GEA restoration (35%). They have lost a total of \$832 million due to the GEA over the past six years.
6. Long Island's 43 low-wealth school districts will receive an aggregate increase of \$1.4 million (1.1%) in Foundation Aid. If the Foundation Aid formula was fully funded, they would have received an additional \$15 million for 2016-17. Since the 2007-08 school year, Long Island is owed a total of \$5.2 billion in Foundation Aid; \$4 billion of that would have been allocated to low-wealth districts.
7. Long Island's 34 "high-wealth" school districts (CWR >2.0) will only receive 4% of all aid to the region, while enrolling 12.6% (56,361) of the students. Thirteen of these districts will receive less than 5% of their revenues from the state, while 19 others will receive between 5% and 9%. Only two will receive more than 9% from the state.
8. A total of \$100 million is proposed statewide to expand the 2015-16 initiative to support turn-around efforts for "persistently failing" or other "high needs" schools in the form of Community Schools Aid. Of these funds, \$9 million has been designated to 11 Long Island school districts for 2016-17.
9. The Governor proposed a 0% cap in the annual growth in STAR savings. He also proposed changing the STAR exemption program from a credit on property tax bills to an income tax credit for new homeowners.
10. High Tax Aid to both Long Island and the state has been frozen at the 2014-15 level.

This memo was emailed to:

Senator Philip Boyle
Senator Thomas Croci
Senator John Flanagan
Senator Kemp Hannon
Senator Kenneth LaValle
Senator Carl Marcellino
Senator Jack Martins
Senator Michael Venditto
Assemblyman Brian Curran
Assemblyman Steven Englebright
Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick
Assemblyman Andrew Garbarino
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Assemblywoman Earlene Hooper*
Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre
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Assemblyman Andrew Raia
Assemblyman Phil Ramos
Assemblyman Joseph Saladino
Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel
Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages
Assemblyman Fred Thiele

** faxed; not emailed*