



**Council of Administrators and Supervisors**

Long Island School Public Relations Association

Nassau County Elementary School Principals Association

Nassau Association of School Business Officials

School Administrators Association of NY (Nassau-Suffolk)

Suffolk County High School Principals Association

Eastern Suffolk BOCES

Nassau County BOCES

Nassau Region PTA

NYS United Teachers (Nassau-Suffolk)

SCOPE Education Services

Suffolk County School Superintendents Association

Western Suffolk BOCES

Long Island Association of Personnel Administrators

Nassau County Council of School Superintendents

Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association

REFIT

Suffolk Association of School Business Officials

Suffolk Region PTA

**Mary Jo O'Hagan, Co-Chairperson**

**516-781-2053**

**Peter Verdon, Co-Chairperson**

**631-273-8822**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Superintendents of Schools, Long Island School Districts

**FROM:** Mr. David Wicks, Eastern Suffolk BOCES

Mr. James Widmer, Nassau BOCES

Mr. Michael Flynn, Western Suffolk BOCES

**DATE:** October 8, 2024

**RE:** 2024-25 Long Island School Budget Impact Survey

The Long Island Education Coalition has completed the 14<sup>th</sup> School Budget Impact Survey. Since 2011, the survey has been useful in identifying the impact of the property tax cap, which was implemented in 2013, as well as illustrating the effects of the history of the Foundation Aid Formula. The Formula, which was implemented in 2007, was set aside one year later as a result of the recession, but beginning in 2021, annual partial restoration of Foundation Aid has resulted in its full restoration for the 2023-24 school year. The issue now at hand is to conduct a study of the Foundation Aid Formula, which is currently underway. We look forward to the upcoming report and recommendations. We thank the 78 districts who took the time to compile this information and complete the survey.

The key findings are attached. Note that some of findings are based on the following wealth categories, as determined by combined wealth ratio (CWR).

Category	Student Enrollment of Respondents	% of Total Enrollment on Long Island (417,798)	Number of Districts out of Total in Category	CWR
Low Wealth	133,658	32.0%	28 of 45	<1.00
Low Mid Wealth	80,972	19.4%	24 of 33	1.00 – 1.49
High Mid Wealth	23,251	5.6%	6 of 12	1.50 – 1.99
High Wealth	20,285	4.9%	18 of 31	2.00+
No CWR	*	*	2 of 4	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>258,166</b>	<b>61.8%</b>	<b>78</b>	

Enrollment: Property Tax Report Card 2024-25. CWR: Legislative State Aid Runs 2024-25.

\*Not provided

DW/JW/MF/km

c: LIEC Member Organizations

Patricia McCabe, Eastern Suffolk BOCES



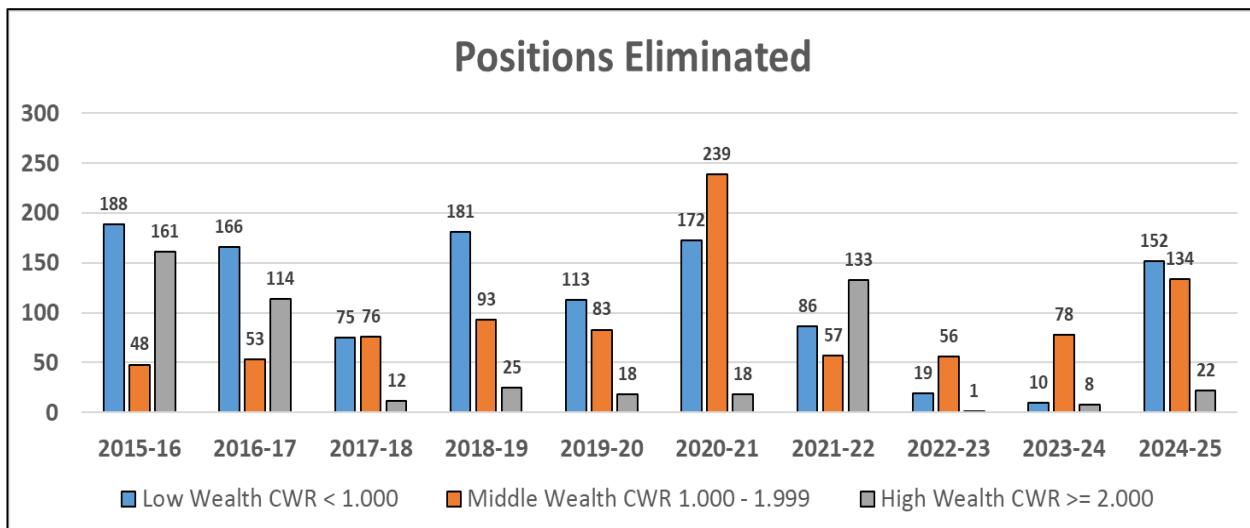
Long Island Education Coalition  
2024-25 School Budget Impact Survey  
Key Findings - 78 School Districts Responding

**1. How many positions did your school district eliminate in 2024-25?**

Positions Eliminated	N	% Total Eliminated	Low Wealth	Medium Wealth	High Wealth
Teachers*	176	57%	97	56	21
Administrators	13	4%	9	4	0
Teaching Assistants	50	16%	22	28	0
Teacher Aides	36	12%	0	36	0
Nurses	2	1%	2	0	0
Clerical	15	5%	9	6	0
Custodial/Maintenance	18	6%	13	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>22</b>

\*includes library media specialists, music, pupil personnel, social workers, etc.

A ten-year progression of the 2,726 positions eliminated (405; 416; 169; 304; 214; 437; 298; 77; 96; 310) is illustrated in the graph below:



\*Numbers in chart do not reflect data from schools with no CWR

**2. What are the reasons for eliminating teachers in 2024-25?**

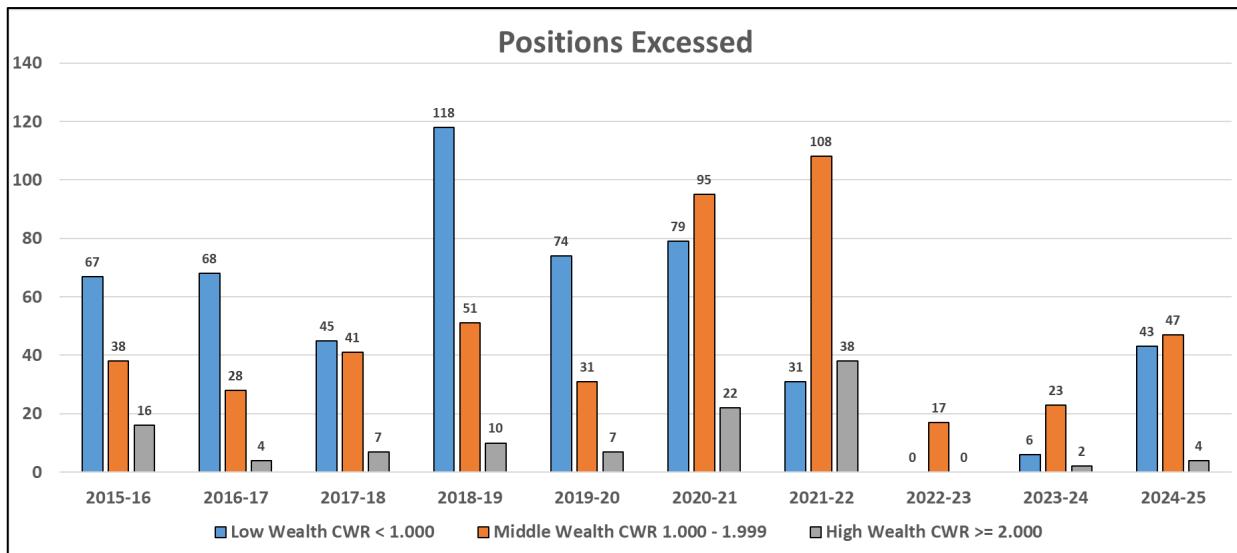
Total Responses	22	
Enrollment Change	14	64%
Budget Driven	7	32%
Loss of Federal Stimulus Funding	5	23%
Program Changes	2	9%

**3. How many positions did your school district excess in 2024-25?**

Positions Excessed	N	% Total Excessed	Low wealth	Medium Wealth	High Wealth
Teachers*	52	55%	21	27	4
Administrators	1	1%	0	1	0
Teaching Assistants	6	6%	0	6	0
Teacher Aides	28	30%	22	6	0
Nurses	0	0%	0	0	0
Clerical	4	4%	0	4	0
Custodial/Maintenance	3	3%	0	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4</b>

\*includes library media specialists, music, pupil personnel, social workers, etc.

A ten-year progression of the 1,107 positions excessed (122; 100; 93; 179; 112; 196; 155; 25; 31; 94) is illustrated in the following graph:

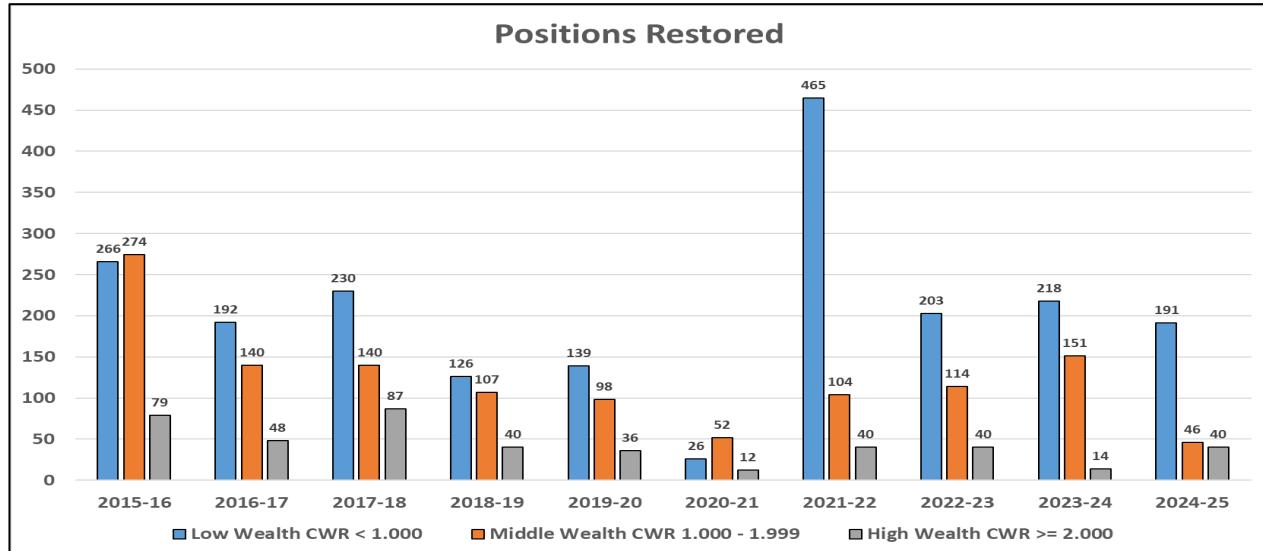


\*Numbers in chart do not reflect data from schools with no CWR

#### 4. How many positions did your school district add/restore in 2024-25?

Positions Added/Restored	N	% Total Restored	Low wealth	Medium Wealth	High Wealth
Teachers*	150	53%	80	31	32
Administrators	17	6%	16	1	0
Teaching Assistants	80	28%	73	3	4
Teacher Aides	21	7%	10	9	1
Nurses	0	0%	0	0	0
Clerical	12	4%	9	1	2
Custodial/Maintenance	5	2%	3	1	1
Total	285	100%	191	46	40

A ten-year progression of the 3,741 positions restored (620; 380; 458; 274; 273; 91; 620; 357; 383; 285) is illustrated in the following graph:



\*Numbers in chart do not reflect data from schools with no CWR

**5. What are the reasons for adding/restoring teachers in 2024-25?**

Total Responses	29	
Special Education	20	69%
New Program Initiatives	10	35%
Increased Enrollment	5	17%
Program Restoration	3	10%
Increase in State Aid	2	7%
Reduced Class Size	1	3%

**6. How many positions will your school district be adding to enhance cybersecurity in 2024-25 and what is the impact to your school district's budget?**

Total Responses	70
School districts adding positions	11
Total positions added	14
Additional Impact to budget (Total for 30 responses)	\$2.6 million
Approximate overall budget allocations (Total for 48 responses)	\$11.6 million

**7. How many positions will your school district be adding to enhance security in 2024-25 and what is the impact to your school districts' budget?**

Total Responses	63
School districts adding positions	13
Total positions added	38
Additional Impact to budget (Total for 26 responses)	\$6.9 million
Approximate overall budget allocations (Total for 54 responses)	\$99.1 million

**8. How many positions will your school district be adding to educate ELLs/MLLs in 2024-25 and what is the impact to your school district's budget?**

Total Responses	60
School districts adding positions	19
Total positions added	36
Additional Impact to budget (Total for 20 responses)	\$3.5 million
Approximate overall budget allocations (Total for 48 responses)	\$70.2 million

**Positions adding for ELL/MLL, by school district wealth:**

Category	Number of positions	Number of districts
Low Wealth	17	8
Low Mid Wealth	9	6
High Mid Wealth	2	2
High Wealth	8	3
No CWR	0	0

9. How many positions will your school district be adding to address student mental health needs in 2024-25 and what is the impact to your school district's budget?

Total Responses	60
School districts adding positions	21
Total positions added	31
Additional Impact to budget (Total for 27 responses)	\$5.1 million
Approximate overall budget allocations (Total for 48 responses)	\$80.5 million

**Positions adding for student mental health needs, by school district wealth:**

Category	Number of positions	Number of districts
Low Wealth	10	7
Low Mid Wealth	14	8
High Mid Wealth	4	3
High Wealth	3	3
No CWR	0	0

10. Will your school district be contracting with a community mental health provider in 2024-25 to address student mental health needs?

Total Responses	61	
Yes	32	52%
No	29	48%

11. Did your school district already offer Pre-Kindergarten in 2023-24?

Total Responses	68	
Yes	64	94%
No	4	6%

12. Will your school district be expanding the number of Pre-K students in 2024-25?

Total Responses	65	
Yes	18	28%
No	47	72%

13. If your school district is planning to expand the number of Pre-K students 2024-25, how many will you be adding?

Total Responses	27	
School districts adding students	12	
Total students added	264	

**Number of Pre-K students adding, by school district wealth:**

Category	Number of students	Number of districts
Low Wealth	118	5
Low Mid Wealth	105	3
High Mid Wealth	0	0
High Wealth	41	4
No CWR	0	0

**14. What percentage of Pre-K students in your school district are classified as special needs?**

Total Responses	54	
0-10%	37	68%
11-20%	15	28%
21-30%	0	0%
31-40%	2	4%
41%+	0	0%

**15. If your school district is not expanding Pre-K in 2024-25, why?**

Total Responses	35	
Lack of In-district space	22	63%
Limited number of eligible children	11	31%
Lack of community-based providers	10	29%
Expense exceeds revenue	9	26%

**Reason for not expanding, by school district wealth:**

Category	Lack of in-district space	Limited number of eligible students	Lack of community-based providers	Expense exceeds revenue
Low Wealth	11	2	6	2
Low Mid Wealth	6	1	1	5
High Mid Wealth	2	2	2	1
High Wealth	3	5	1	1
No CWR	0	1	0	0

**16. Will you be contracting with a third party for your Pre-K program?**

Total Responses	64	
Yes	44	69%
No	20	31%

**17. Do you plan to supplement the state funding allocation for Pre-K?**

Total Responses	63	
Yes	33	52%
No	30	48%

**18. Will instructional opportunities be reduced or the school day/district be restructured due to budget driven change?**

Total Responses	64	
Yes	4	6%
No	60	94%

**19. Will instructional opportunities be added/restored or the school day/district be restructured due to budget driven change?**

Total Responses	64	
Yes	5	8%
No	59	92%

**20. Will instructional opportunities be added due to new requirements?**

Total Responses	64	
Yes	8	13%
No	56	87%

**21. For the 2024-25 school year, most school districts reported zero to less than 10% reductions of non-mandated programs and services. The number of school districts reporting restoration/addition in the following areas is:**

Number of Districts	Non-mandated Program/Service
2	AIS Elementary Middle School/Jr. High School High School
0	Alternative Education
3	AP Classes
0	Art Classes
8	BOCES Career and Technical Education
4	BOCES Special Education
1	Field Trips
5	High School Electives
0	IB Program
1	Library Media Services Elementary Middle School/Jr. High School High School
2	Summer School
Co-Curricular Activities	
1	Before/After School Programs Elementary Middle School/Jr. High School High School
4	Clubs Elementary Middle School/Jr. High School High School
0	Art Classes Elementary Middle School/Jr. High School High School
0	Musical Performing Groups Elementary Middle School/Jr. High School High School
Sport/Athletics	
8	Athletic Teams Middle School/Jr. High School Jr. Varsity/Varsity
8	Related Staff for Sport & Athletic Teams
	Professional Development – Instructional and Administrative
2	In-service Programs
2	BOCES Offerings
2	Other Conferences and Workshops

**22. Will community access to, or use of, your school facilities be modified in 2024-25?**

Total Responses	68	
Yes	6	9%
No	62	91%

**23. When the Federal Stimulus funding is no longer available, how will you continue funding programs/staff that were implemented by using these funds?**

Total Responses	52	
Shift expenses to general fund	45	87%
Eliminate program staff	21	40%
Use other funding resources	8	15%

**24. Are you anticipating establishing a TRS Reserve of adding to the established TRS Reserve during the 2023-24 school year?**

Total Responses	67	
Yes	39	58%
No	20	30%
Undecided at time of survey	8	12%

**25. Are you considering exceeding the 4% allowable unassigned fund balance?**

Total Responses	65	
Yes	6	9%
No	51	79%
Undecided at time of survey	8	12%

**26. Are there any additional actions that your school district has taken related to budget development?**

Total Responses	49	
Use of fund balance	46	94%
Implementing an Energy Efficiency Project	18	37%
Shared Services	11	22%
Other union concessions	1	2%
Amend mileage eligibility for transportation	1	2%
Restructure a building schedule to reduce transportation cost	1	2%
Renegotiated salary structure	0	0%

**27. Has your school district received or utilized alternative revenue from other funding sources?**

Total Responses	28	
Federal Stimulus funding	20	71%
Smart School – Targeted State Aid	18	64%
Education foundation funds	6	21%
Community Schools – Targeted State Aid	4	14%

It is important to recognize that these are summary numbers and do not reflect the many different school district specific scenarios. There are things to be thankful for over the past few years in the way schools have been funded by the state. However, concerns persist over the lack of a mechanism for consistent funding from year to year and inequities over how the funding is distributed to school districts. We must continue to monitor the impact of state aid on school district budgets and programming, as well as the impact of varied unfunded mandates.