

Council of Administrators and Supervisors
 Eastern Suffolk BOCES
 Long Island Association of School Personnel Administrators
 Long Island School Public Relations Association
 Nassau County BOCES
 Nassau County Council of School Superintendents
 Nassau County Elementary School Principals Association
 Nassau County Secondary School Administrators Assn.
 Nassau Region PTA
 Nassau Suffolk School Board Association



Nassau Association of School Business Officials
 New York State United Teachers (Nassau-Suffolk)
 Reform Educational Financing Inequities Today (R.E.F.I.T.)
 School Administrators Association of New York State (Nassau-Suffolk)
 SCOPE Education Services
 Suffolk Association of School Business Officials
 Suffolk County High School Principals Association
 Suffolk County School Superintendents Association
 Suffolk Region PTA
 Western Suffolk BOCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents of Schools, Long Island School Districts
 Long Island Education Coalition Member Organizations

FROM: Mary Jo O'Hagan, Co-Chairperson
 Peter L. Verdon, Co-Chairperson

DATE: September 11, 2015

RE: Results of the 2015-16 LIEC School Budget Impact Survey

The Long Island Education Coalition has completed the fifth School Budget Impact Survey. The first survey, which was completed in September 2011, was useful in identifying the impact of three years of frozen and/or reduced state aid allocations. The surveys that followed began measuring the impact of the property tax cap, which was implemented in the 2012-13 school year. This fifth survey includes an analysis of the responses from 101 school districts. It captures the impact of school funding on school districts that continue to work under a property tax cap, with some relief from increased state aid and reduced New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYS-TRS) contributions. The cumulative impact of the last five years is captured in some of the findings.

The attached 10 key findings have been identified.

The findings are based on the responses from school districts within the following categories:

Category	Number	CWR
Low Wealth	32	<1.00
Low Mid Wealth	29	1.00 – 1.49
High Mid Wealth	10	1.50 – 1.99
High Wealth	26	2.00+
Other	4	N/A

JDL/mp
 Attachment



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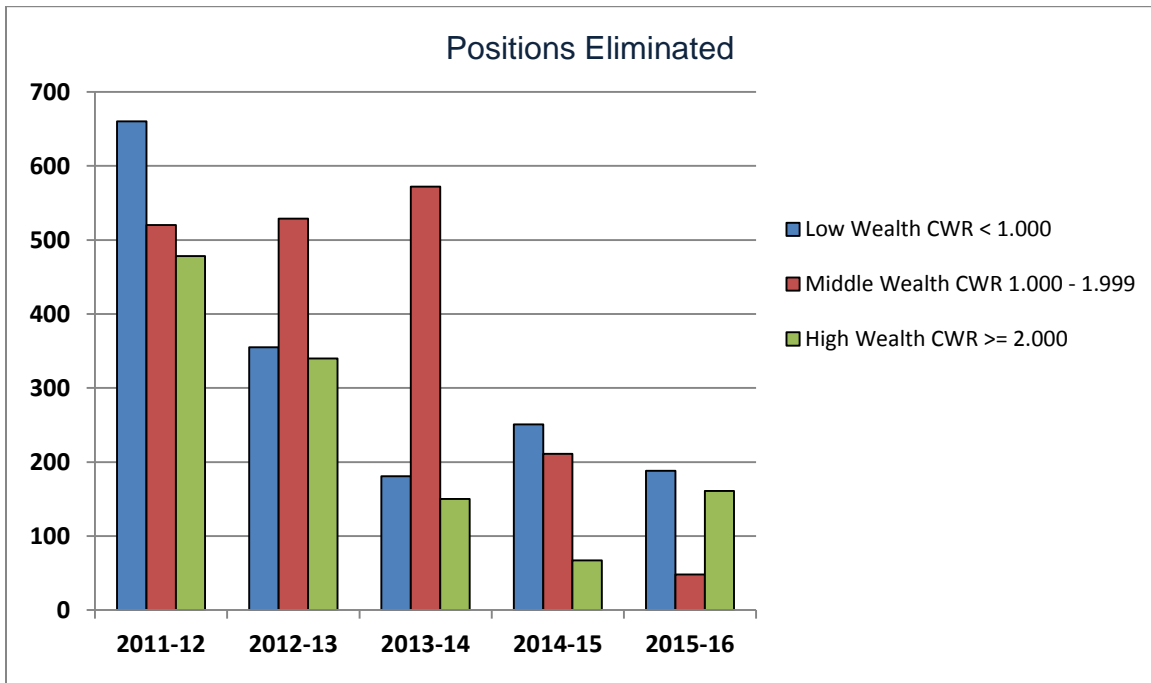
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Long Island Education Coalition 2015-16 School Budget Impact Survey

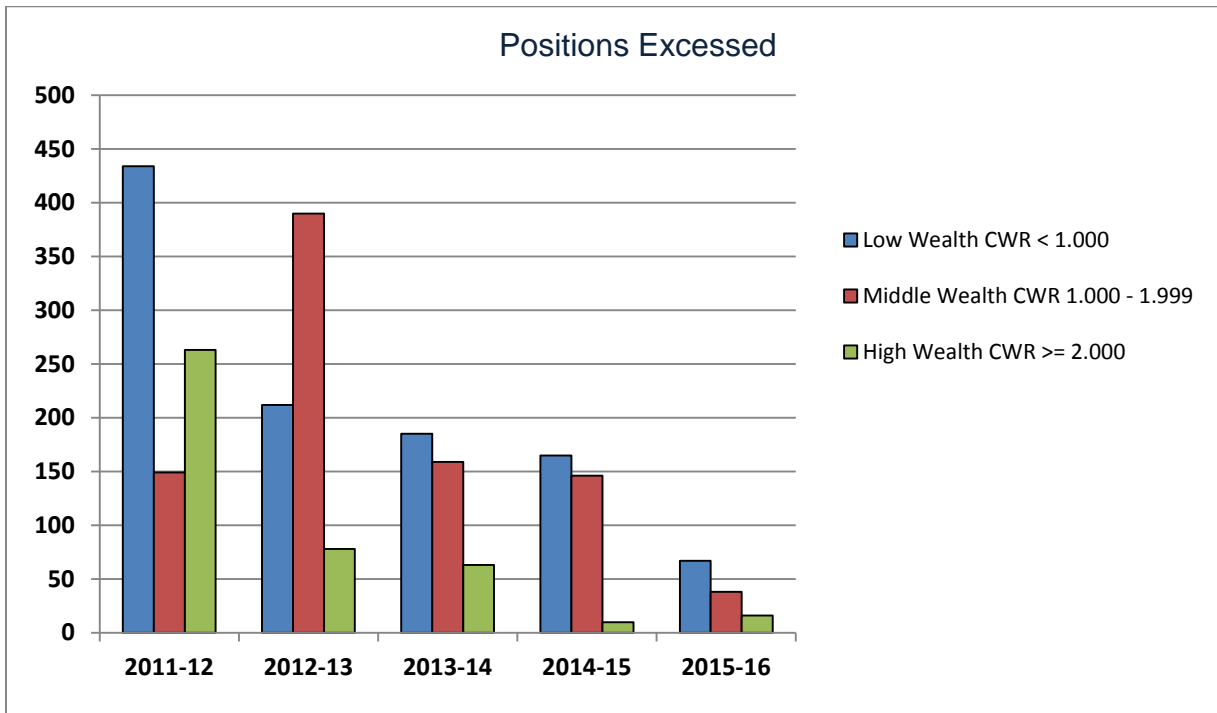
10 Key Findings – 101 School Districts Responding

With the ability to analyze five years of survey data, we see that the impact of years of frozen and/or reduced state aid allocations and the introduction of the property tax cap in the 2012-13 school year continues to have some cumulative effects on Long Island school programming. However, the restoration of state aid related to the Gap Elimination Adjustment, and reduced employee contributions to the NYS Teachers' Retirement System for the 2015-16 school year, have afforded school districts some relief in school funding challenges. We see this impact reflected in the following key findings:

- Over the past five years, Long Island school districts eliminated a significant number of positions. A five-year progression of the 4,853 positions eliminated (1,771; 1,233; 904; 539; 405) is illustrated in the graph below:



- School districts are able to eliminate positions through attrition and other means, but over the last five years a significant number of school employees were excessed from their jobs. A five-year progression of the 2,302 positions excessed (768, 682, 408, 322, 122) is illustrated in the following graph:



3. School districts are working hard to balance a budget in this tax levy cap environment. Of the 66 school districts responding to an item regarding additional actions taken to balance the budget, 45 indicated that they have used their fund balance to balance their budgets for the 2015-16 school year, 23 indicated they have renegotiated salary structures, and 31 indicated that they have implemented shared services.
4. For the 2015-16 school year, an additional 405 positions were eliminated and 620 positions were reported to be restored. Of the positions restored, 175 of those positions (28%) were needed to comply with Part 154 Regulations, and more than one-half were added to meet new regulations or mandates. Of the 175 positions needed for the Part 154 Regulations, almost one-half are in low-wealth school districts (CWR <1.00).
5. For the first time, most school districts reported zero to less than 10% reductions in programs and services.
6. The school districts still reporting additional reductions in programs and services were primarily low-wealth school districts (CWR <1.00).
7. A small number of school districts (8%) responding reported minor restoration/addition (between 1% and 10%) of non-mandated programs and services.
8. Of those school districts reporting restoration/addition of programs:
 - a. 13 school districts reported restoration/addition of BOCES Career and Technical Education programs.
 - b. 10 school districts reported restoration/addition of BOCES Special Education programs.
 - c. 12 school districts reported restoration/addition of art classes.
 - d. 15 school districts reported restoration/addition of Advanced Placement classes.
 - e. 29 school districts reported restoration/addition of high school electives.

9. There was little to no additional reductions reported for co-curricular activities for elementary, middle, and high schools. In fact, there was some restoration for clubs, with 16 elementary schools (22%), 11 middle schools (16%), and 18 high schools (26%) reporting such restorations.
10. Of those school districts reporting an increase in the area of sports and athletics, 24 (35%) reported an increase in related staff for sports and athletics (coaches, trainers, etc.), 10 (15%) reported an increase in middle school/junior high school athletic teams, and 14 (20%) reported an increase in junior varsity/varsity athletic teams.