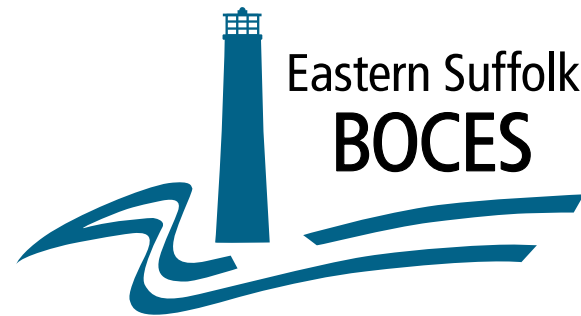


Longwood Regional Legislative Breakfast



Priorities of the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association and Eastern Suffolk BOCES

Presented by:
Gary D. Bixhorn
Legislative Chairperson, SCSSA
Chief Operating Officer, ESBOCES

February 9, 2008



SCSSA Leadership

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SCSSA 2008 Legislative Program

- Setting the Record Straight
- Promoting Fair Distribution of State Aid
- Promoting School Safety and Security
- Promoting School Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Promoting Cooperative Initiatives



Setting the Record Straight

It is important that misconceptions about school spending and wealth in Suffolk County be corrected. The facts do not necessarily match some of the popularly held beliefs. These include:

- Recognize that over half (58.1%) of the students in the county are enrolled in school districts that fall below the state average in income and property wealth. This represents 25 school districts* with a total enrollment of 153,322 students.
- Recognize that the cost of education on Long Island, when adjusted for regional cost differences, is below the state median.

* Information for Little Flower, New Suffolk, Sagaponack, and Wainscott were not reported by NYSED. These districts were not included in the total enrollment.



Setting the Record Straight

(Continued)

- The local share of school district funding, which is raised primarily through property taxes, is 65.5% on Long Island. This is approximately 44% higher than the 45.4% average local share in the rest of the state.
- Recognize that Suffolk County is diverse, with schools and communities all along the continuum of needs and available resources.
- Long Islanders use 20% more of their gross household income to pay property taxes than New Yorkers in general.



Popular Misconceptions of Long Island Wealth

- Long Island has several very wealthy school districts based upon an analysis of combined wealth ratios (CWR). However, several of the “wealthy” districts are small, while there are many “poor” large districts.

Accordingly, there is a wide gap between perception and reality when it comes to the wealth of Long Island schools.

The percentage of students in districts of below average wealth (CWR < 1.00) by BOCES region on Long Island is as follows:

Region	Number of Students (2004-05)	Percentage of Students
Suffolk County	153,322	58.1
Eastern Suffolk BOCES	124,135	72.0
Western Suffolk BOCES	29,187	31.9
Nassau County (Nassau BOCES)	21,043	10.0
Long Island	174,365	36.7



Popular Misconceptions of Long Island Expenses

Rank Adjusted	County	Per Pupil Expenditures Adjusted
1 (21-unadj.)	Dutchess	\$9,363 (\$12,303-unadj.)
56 (56-unadj.)	Hamilton	\$22,641 (\$22,641 unadj.)
Median 28 (11-unadj.)	Broome	\$11,381 (\$11,893 unadj.)
20 (53-unadj.)	Long Island	\$11,135 (\$15,867 unadj.)

Description: This table reports the adjusted per pupil expenditures for Long Island compared to the other 55 counties (excluding New York City). The unadjusted rank and unadjusted per pupil expenditures for the counties listed above are indicated within parentheses below the adjusted figures.

Source: *New York State Education Department Board of Regents (2006). Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts (Chapter 655). Albany, NY: The University of the State of New York-The State Education Department.*

Method of Ranking: Counties were ranked from lowest (1) to highest (56) on total per pupil expenditures. Adjusted rankings were based on the professional cost index derived from "The Regents Proposal on State Aid to School Districts for School Year 2006-07."



Popular Misconceptions - Outcomes

Percentage of Students in Long Island's Least Wealthy and Wealthiest School Districts Passing the Elementary/Middle Level Assessments and Regents Exams

Assessment / Regents 2004-05	Least Wealthy LI Districts (9 districts) % of all students tested	Wealthiest LI Districts (9 districts) % of all students tested	Long Island	Rest of State (excluding NYC and LI)	New York State (excluding NYC; but including LI)
Assessment Results-Elementary and Middle Level Students Scoring at Levels 3 and 4					
Grade 4 ELA	70.4	90.8	83.5	73.4	76.2
Grade 4 Mathematics	84.8	97.3	93.1	87.5	89.0
Grade 4 Science	85.1	97.4	94.0	88.0	89.3
Grade 5 Social Studies	81.7	97.6	92.3	85.0	87.0
Grade 8 ELA	47.1	80.0	66.0	52.5	56.0
Grade 8 Mathematics	48.0	87.5	72.3	60.1	63.3
Grade 8 Science	68.9	92.1	84.0	81.3	82.0
Grade 8 Social Studies	59.1	89.5	80.0	69.0	72.0
Regents Exam Results- Students Scoring 65+					
English	73.9	93.8	88.4	84.3	85.4
Mathematics Course A	77.7	95.2	90.0	86.0	87.1
Global History & Geography	67.6	91.3	84.0	78.2	80.0
US History & Government	74.4	93.9	87.0	83.0	84.0
Living Environment	66.5	96.1	86.1	85.3	86.0



Popular Misconceptions - Outcomes

(Continued)

Youth Risk Indicators and Outcome Measures Among Long Island's Least Wealthy and Wealthiest School Districts

	% Limited English Proficient (LEP)	% Drop Out	% Students Graduating w/Regents Diploma	% Graduates to Post-Secondary Education
Least Wealthy Districts (9 districts) Total Enrollment = 69,546	11.6	7.4	63.0	84.0
Wealthiest Districts (9 districts) Total Enrollment = 23,669	5.0	0.5	92.0	95.8
Long Island	5.1	1.9	85.3	92.7
Rest of State (excluding NYC and LI)	2.7	2.6	82.0	88.6
New York State (excluding NYC; but including LI)	3.3	2.4	82.9	89.7



Popular Misconceptions - Revenues

2004-05	State Aid Receipts	STAR Subsidy Receipts	Total Receipts from State	Federal Aid Receipts	Property Tax Levy & Other Revenue	Total Revenue
Nassau County	619,168,144	341,356,865	960,525,009	84,583,148	2,850,926,075	3,896,034,232
<i>% of Total Revenue</i>	15.9%	8.8%	24.7%	2.2%	73.2%	
Suffolk County	1,336,945,436	347,764,522	1,684,709,958	112,301,652	2,545,456,300	4,342,467,910
<i>% of Total Revenue</i>	30.8%	8.0%	38.8%	2.6%	58.6%	
Long Island	1,956,113,580	689,121,387	2,645,234,967	196,884,800	5,396,382,375	8,238,502,142
<i>% of Total Revenue</i>	23.7%	8.4%	32.1%	2.4%	65.5%	
Rest of State (excluding NYC and LI)	7,857,805,923	1,585,645,930	9,443,451,853	999,543,810	8,694,895,626	19,137,891,289
<i>% of Total Revenue</i>	41.1%	8.3%	49.3%	5.2%	45.4%	
New York State (excluding NYC; but including LI)	9,813,919,503	2,274,767,317	12,088,686,820	1,196,428,610	14,091,278,001	27,376,393,431
<i>% of Total Revenue</i>	35.8%	8.3%	44.2%	4.4%	51.5%	

Description: State Aid Receipts + STAR Subsidy Receipts = Total State Receipts. Total Revenue = Total Receipts from State + Federal Aid Receipts + Property Tax Levy & Other Revenue. Excludes New York City.

Source: New York State Education Department Fiscal Analysis and Research Unit (FARU). Fiscal Reporting System Masterfile, 2005



Issues Involving the Executive Budget

- Added \$1.439 billion in State Aid
- Only 8.23% of increase directed to Long Island which enrolls 16.78% of the State's students
- Already flawed foundation formula was made less responsive to regional needs
- Supplemental excess cost aid eliminated
- High Tax Aid reduced
- BOCES Aid reduced
- Preschool costs shifted from state to school district



The Executive Budget: What does this mean for Long Island?

- 60% of the school districts in the state with a projected aid loss are on Long Island (46 of 77).
- The average aid increase on Long Island is **one third lower** than the state average.
- Long Island schools will receive **\$18.5 million** less in BOCES Aid.
- Long Island schools will receive **\$8.7 million** less in Supplemental Excess Cost Aid.



Executive Budget: What does this mean for Long Island?

- 25 school districts lost their entire appropriation of High Tax Aid, including 3 low wealth districts.
- Long Island schools will receive \$9.1 million less in High Tax Aid.
- The minimum increase in the Foundation Aid formula was cut from 3% to 2%.
- The number of Suffolk County school districts receiving the minimum increase went from 42 to 48.



Executive Budget: What does this mean for Long Island?

- Two-thirds of the districts on Long Island will receive the 2% minimum increase (81 of 121).
- Among the districts receiving the minimum are **10 low wealth** (CWR<1.0) enrolling **73,000 students**.
- The budget projects a two year average increase of 4.6% in Foundation Aid for Suffolk County. This is 42.5% less than the statewide average (8.0%).



What needs to be done?



**Long Islanders need
to speak with one voice
and
demand the following...**



Recommendations for School Funding

- Fully restore High Tax Aid to the 2007-08 levels for every school district.
- Retain the existing BOCES Aid formula.
- Retain the existing Supplemental Excess Cost Aid formula.
- Do not allow the state to shift preschool expenses to school districts and add to the property tax burden.



Recommendations for School Funding (Continued)

- Fix the Foundation Formula to ...
 - ... utilize a regional cost index that recognizes the true costs of “doing business” on Long Island.
 - ... utilize wealth and poverty measures that are regionally sensitive.
 - ... utilize a sharing ratio that generates a reasonable level of expected local effort.
 - ... raise the minimum increase from 3% to 5% with a higher minimum for low-wealth districts.



What will this cost?

- Restore BOCES Aid \$18.5M
- Restore Supplemental Excess Cost Aid \$8.7M
- Restore High Tax Aid \$9.1M
- Increase the Foundation Aid minimum from 2% to 5/6% \$35.0M

\$71.3M



Are the funds available?

- A 13% share of the \$1.439 billion increase is \$187 million.
- The 13% share would provide \$68.5 million more than is currently in the Executive Budget. This is nearly enough to fund all the restorations as well as the enhancement of the foundation formula.



Initiatives Promoting School Safety and Security

- **Establish School Safety and Security Aid -**
Establish an expense-driven aid that reimburses school districts for expenses involving school security and safety.
- **Fund Additional School Resource Officers (SROs) –**
Provide funding to police departments to offer SROs to schools that request assignment.



Initiatives Promoting School Efficiency and Effectiveness

- **Reform the Taylor Law** - Amend the Triborough Amendment of the Civil Service Law so that in the event that a collective bargaining agreement expires, any provision for continuing salary increases also expires.
- **End Unfunded Mandates**- Any legislation that is enacted must provide sufficient funds for any action, program, or service that the legislation mandates.
- **Repeal the Wicks Law** - Repeal Section 101 of the General Municipal Law (the Wicks Law).
- **Seek Greater Federal Support** - New York State government should aggressively advocate for full funding of IDEA and NCLB by the federal government.



Initiatives Promoting School Efficiency and Effectiveness

(Continued)

Charter Schools

Charter Schools should be held to the same standards as regular public schools and their funding mechanism should be changed to provide a statewide source of funds, rather than redirecting funds away from local school districts.

District Superintendent Salary Cap

Eliminate the salary cap on the District Superintendent. Salaries and benefits for these administrators should be set by the BOCES Board in the same way that a local Board establishes salary and benefits for the chief school administrator.

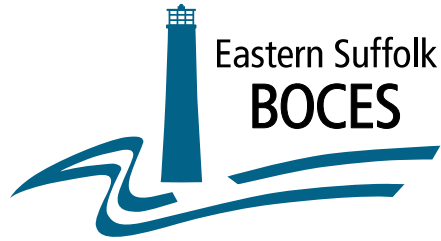
Special Act Schools

Reform the funding formula for Special Act Schools. Tuition setting must be done in a more predictable manner on a multi-year basis and districts should be allowed to retain their fund balance.



Initiatives Promoting Municipal Efficiency through Shared Services

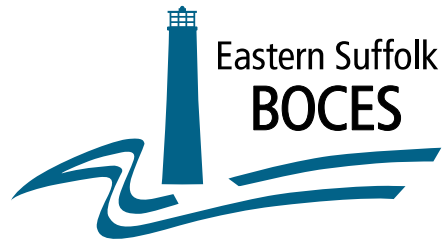
- The SCSSA urges New York State to enact enabling legislation to authorize the County of Suffolk to enter into cooperative agreements with school districts, towns, and villages located within the County of Suffolk to pay for provision of health care services to their employees, without being subject to the provisions of Article 47 of the New York Insurance Law.
- The SCSSA urges the state legislature to enact legislation that will allow school districts to utilize service contracts (i.e., plumbing, electrical, etc.) available through the County. Currently, Articles 8 and 9 of the Labor Law prohibit school districts from using such contracts.



ADVOCACY 2008

ESBOCES Legislative Priorities

- Restore the BOCES Aid Formula
- Support for Increased State Aid for our School Districts
- District Superintendent Salary Cap
- Offer Enhanced BOCES Aid for Functional Consolidation



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Assistant Superintendent

Michael J. Locantore – Human Resources

Directors

Deloris Alexander-Davis – Career, Technical and Adult Education

Robert Becker – Special Education

Andrea Grooms – Communications, Research and Recruitment

Gregory Hamilton – Administrative Services

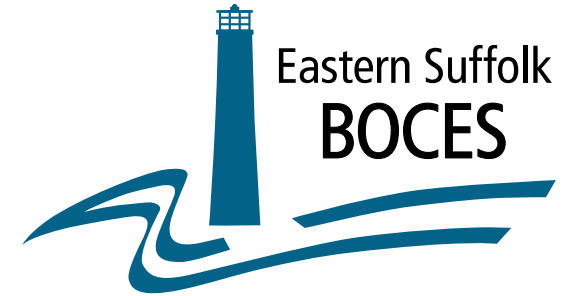
Maureen Kaelin – Business Services

Sylvia Savarese – Technology Integration

Joan Skelly – Educational Support Services

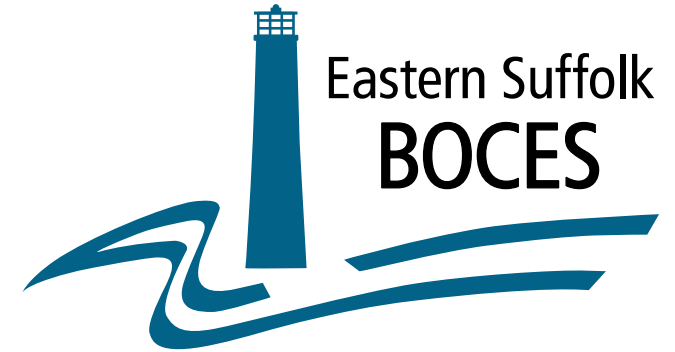
Jeanne K. Weber – Regional Information Center

Candace White-Ciraco, Ed.D. – Planning and Program Improvement



It's Up to All of Us!

**We Urge You To Use This
Information To Advocate For
The Children And Taxpayers
In Your School District**



Any Questions?

**Copies of this PowerPoint presentation
and other supporting information
can be located on the Eastern Suffolk BOCES website
at www.esboces.org**