



Long Island Schools: Worthy of Pride...Worthy of Support

January 30, 2014

Presented by:

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Suffolk County School Superintendents Association

and

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Overview



- Long Island Education – Facts and Outcomes
- If Long Island Were a State...
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Long Island Education - Facts and Outcomes



Long Island Education Facts and Outcomes



Attention to Common Core related matters has thrust suburban education into the spotlight.

The U.S. Secretary of Education said in response to concerns about the Common Core:

“It’s fascinating to me that some of the pushback is coming from, sort of, white suburban moms who – all of a sudden – their child isn’t as brilliant as they thought they were and their school isn’t quite as good as they thought they were, and that’s pretty scary. You’ve bet your house and where you live and everything on ‘My child’s going to be prepared.’ That can be a punch in the gut.”



Long Island Education Facts and Outcomes



Newsday included the following in its coverage of the drop in PISA scores:

Other analysts said such results reflect on suburban school systems as well as low-scoring urban schools. Those authorities cited PISA scores specifically as evidence that suburban schools may not be doing as well as they think.

“What we see when we look at suburban communities is a sort of complacency,” said Eric Hanushek, an economist and senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

Hanushek recently co-authored a book, “Endangering Prosperity,” which concludes the United States is in danger of losing its economic edge unless it raises academic achievement.



Long Island Education Facts and Outcomes

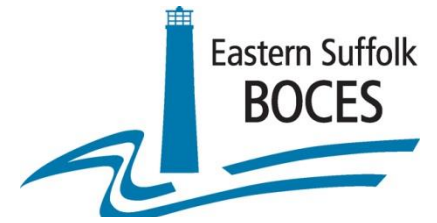


New York State Regent Betty Rosa commented on the NYS implementation of the Common Core:

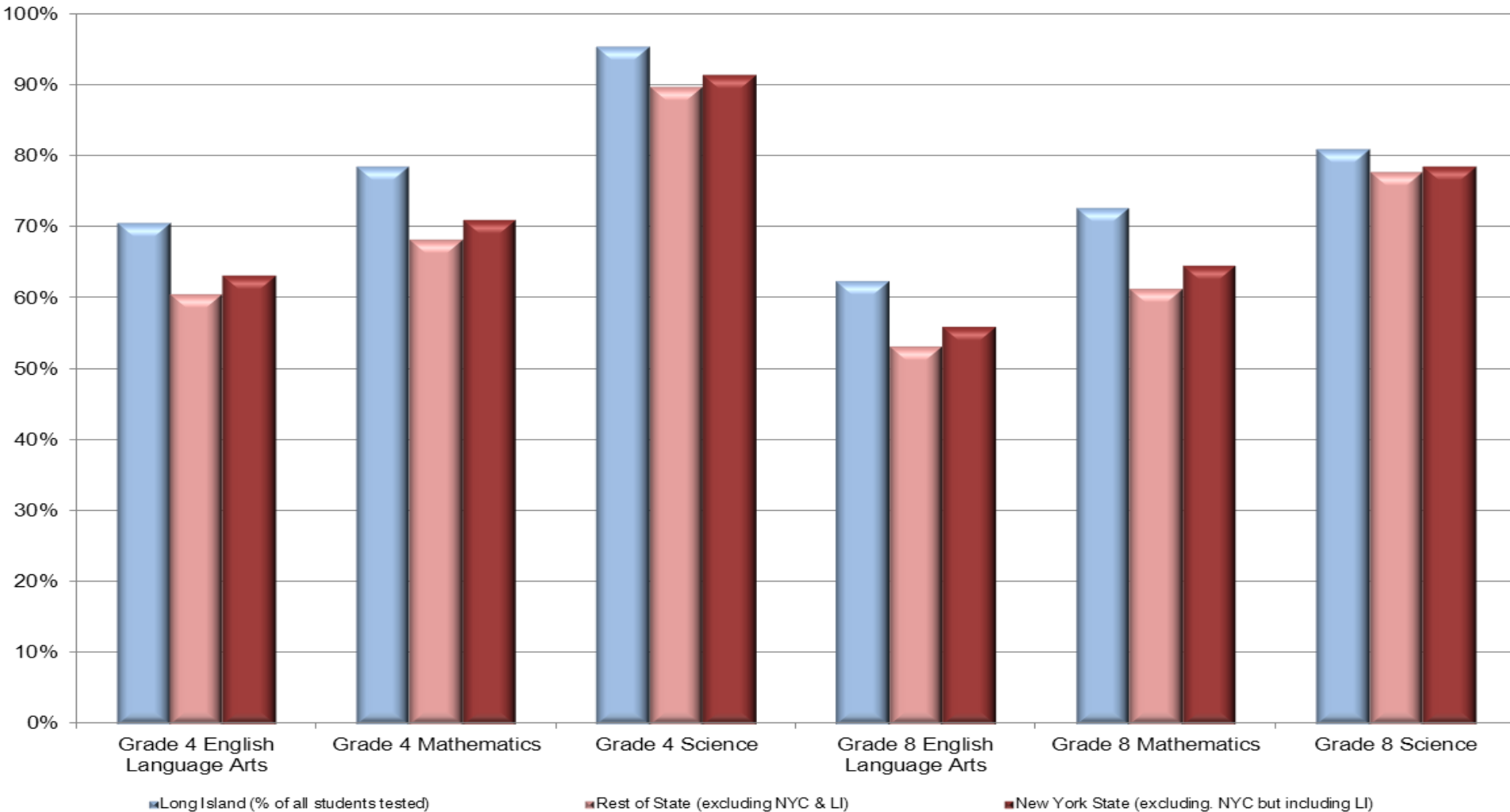
“They are using false information to create a crisis, to take the state test and turn it on its head to make sure the suburbs experience what the urban centers experience: failure.”



Long Island Education Facts and Outcomes

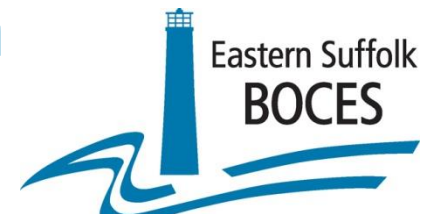


2011-12
Percentage of Elementary and Middle Level Students Scoring at Levels 3 and 4

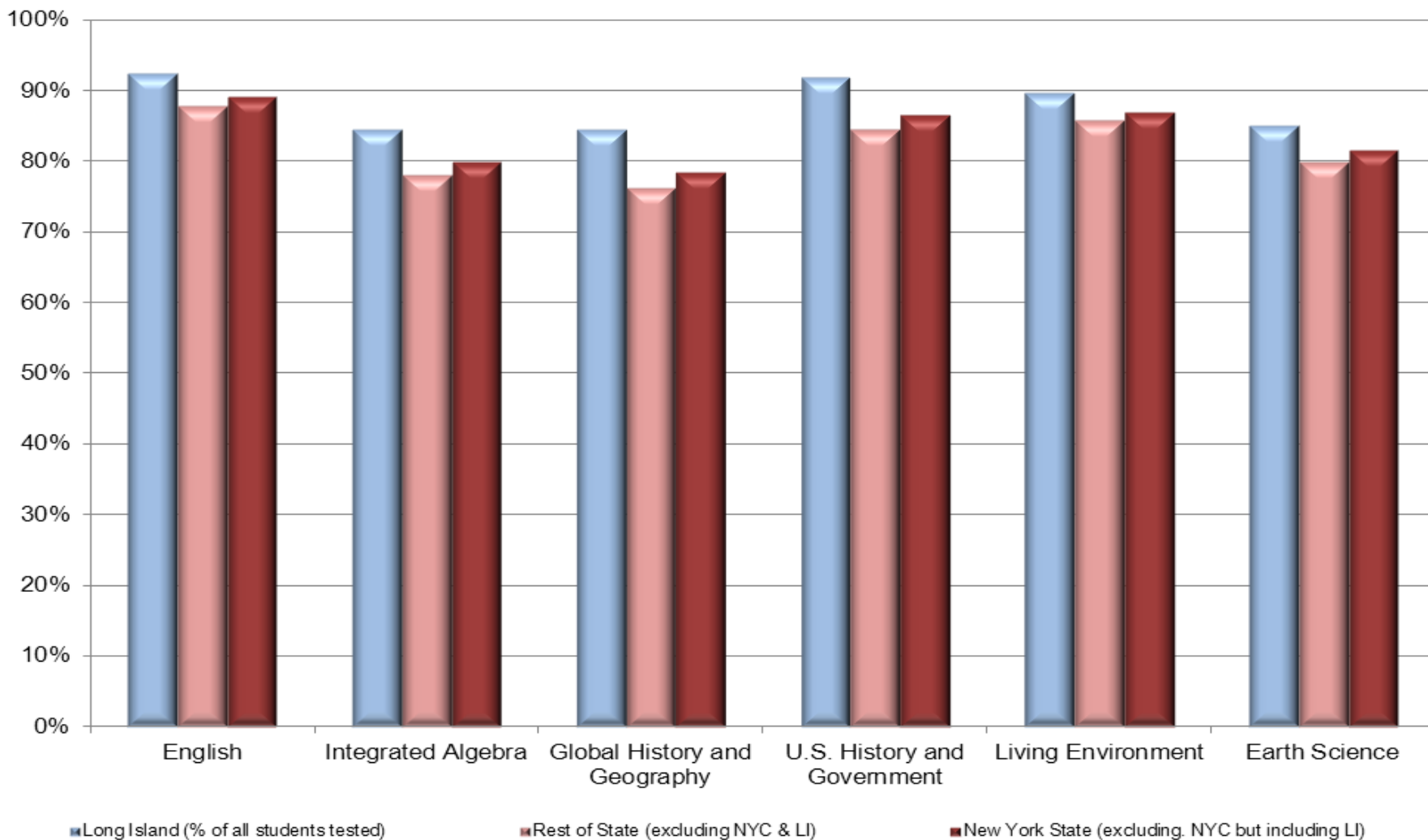




Long Island Education Facts and Outcomes



2011-12 Percentage of Secondary Students Scoring 65+ on Regents Exams

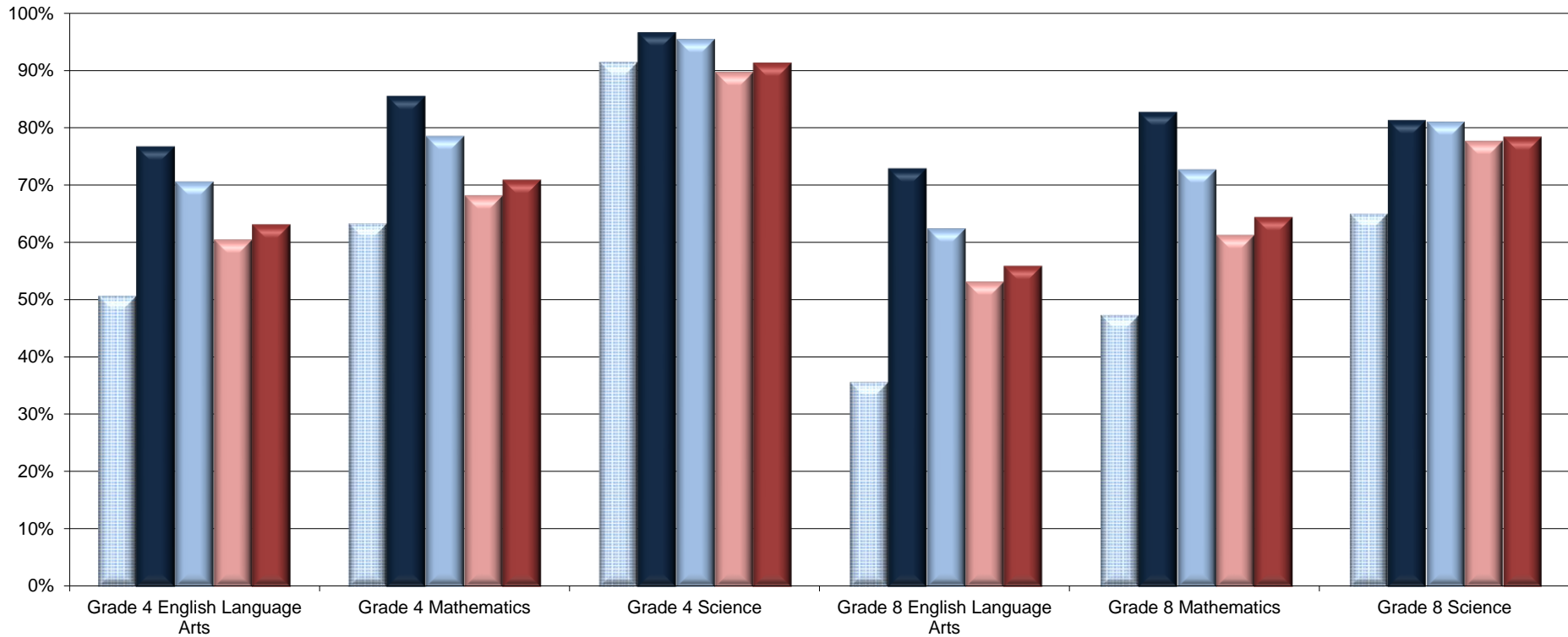




Long Island Education Facts and Outcomes



Percentage of Students in Long Island's Least Wealthy and Wealthiest School Districts Passing the Elementary/Middle Level Assessments 2011-12



■ Least LI Wealthy Districts
 ■ Wealthiest LI Districts
 ■ Long Island (% of all students tested)

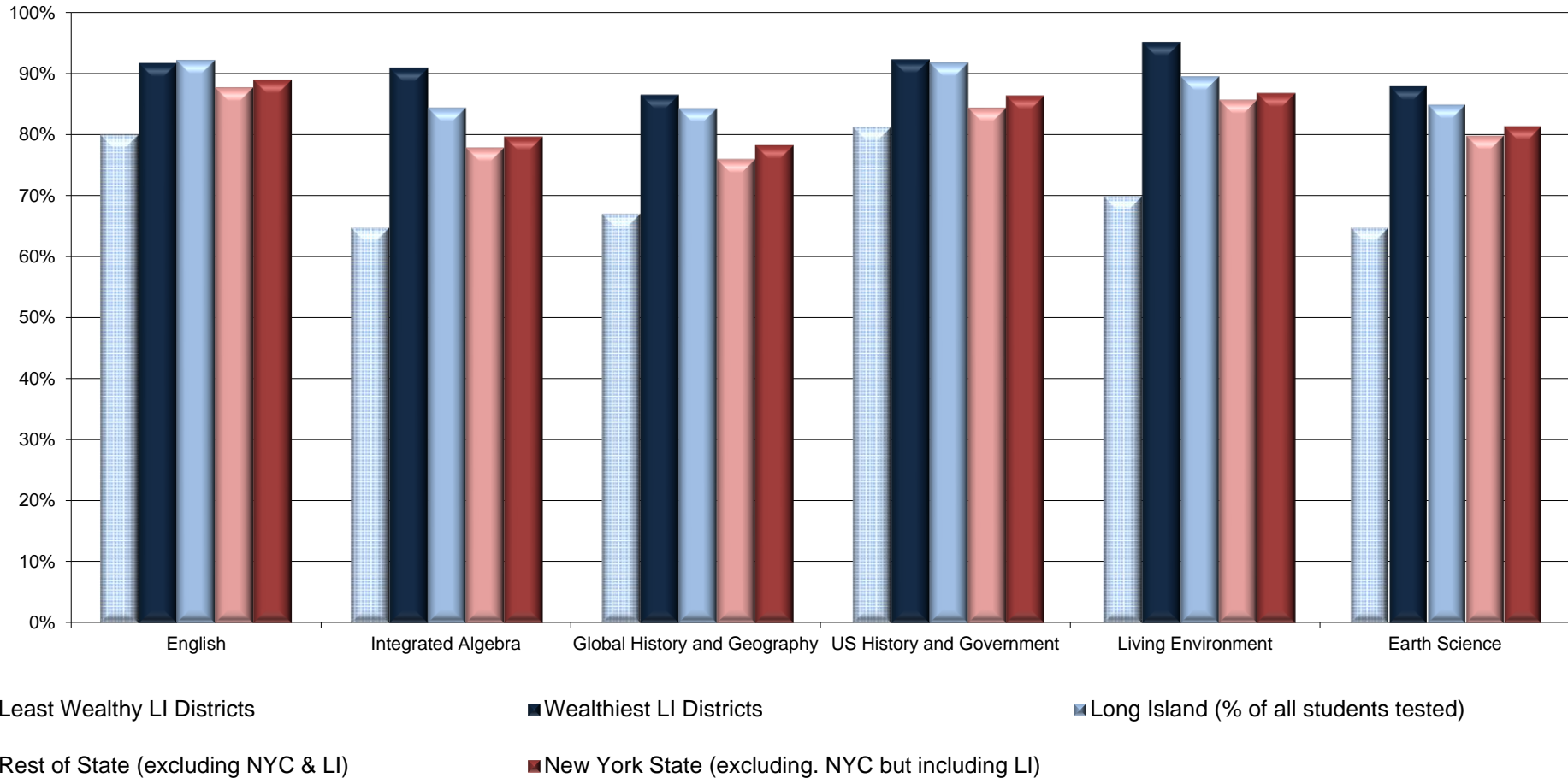
■ Rest of State (excluding NYC & LI)
 ■ New York State (including LI)



Long Island Education Facts and Outcomes

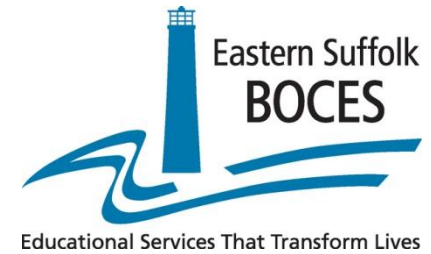


Percentage of Students in Long Island's Least Wealthy and Wealthiest School Districts Passing the Regents Exams 2011-12





Long Island Education Facts and Outcomes



Even after SED dramatically altered the results on the 2013 State Assessments by changing the cut scores, LI students continued to outperform students statewide.

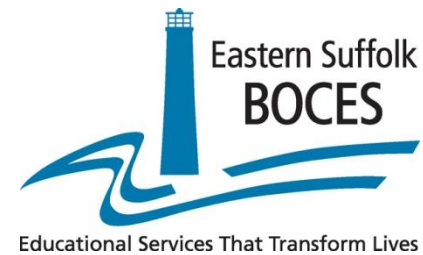
- In the aggregate, the percentage of LI students at or above proficiency in grades 3-8 ELA was 36% greater than in the rest of the state (39.7% vs. 29.2%).
- In the aggregate, the percentage of LI students at or above proficiency in grades 3-8 math was 26% greater than in the rest of the state (37.5% vs. 29.7%).
- The percentage of LI students at or above proficiency on the grade 3, grade 4, grade 5, grade 6, grade 7, and grade 8 ELA and math assessments was greater than in the rest of the state.



If Long Island Were a State



If Long Island Were a State...



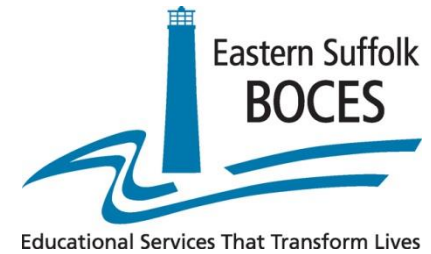
Long Island is home to an unmatched concentration of outstanding public schools and exceptional student outcomes.



In order to put this in perspective,
if Long Island were a state...



If Long Island Were a State...



- It would rank 33rd in population (2,848,506) between Arkansas (2,889,450) and Kansas (2,818,743)
- It would rank 50th in square mileage (1,197) between Delaware (1,948) and Rhode Island (1,033)
- It would rank 1st in population density (2,733) ahead of New Jersey (1,195) and Rhode Island (1,018)
- It would rank 30th in high school enrollment (148,075) between Iowa (147,663) and Utah (160,573)



If Long Island Were a State...



Annually, *Newsweek* magazine identifies the top 10% of America's high schools (2,000 of 20,368). In 2013...

- Over 40% (48) of Long Island high schools were ranked in the top 1,000 (5%) nationally
- Over 50% (60) of Long Island high schools were ranked in the top 2,000 (10%) nationally
- If Long Island were a state, it would rank #1 in the percentage of high schools identified as "America's Best" by *Newsweek*

The logo for 'America's Best High Schools 2013' is presented in a white rectangular box with a black border. The text 'AMERICA'S BEST' is in red, 'HIGH SCHOOLS' is in black, and '13' is in red. At the bottom, 'Newsweek & THE DAILY BEAST' is written in red.

**AMERICA'S
BEST '13
HIGH
SCHOOLS**
Newsweek & THE DAILY BEAST



If Long Island Were a State...



U.S. News & World Report's "2013 Best High Schools"

Annually, *U.S. News & World Report* identifies the best high schools and awards Gold and Silver Medals to those "most successfully preparing students for college..."

In 2013,

- ... One of every 5 Long Island high schools were awarded a Gold or Silver Medal
- ... If Long Island were a state, it would rank 3rd (19.4%) behind California (27.8%) and Maryland (25.7%) in the percentage of eligible schools receiving Gold or Silver Medals





If Long Island Were a State...



If Long Island were a state, it would rank 3rd in the number of Siemens Science Competition Semifinalists, behind California and Texas. However, a comparison of the number of high school students puts the rankings in perspective:

2013 Siemens Science Competition Semifinalists		
State	Semifinalists	9-12 Enrollment
California	51	1,995,610
Texas	46	1,349,106
Long Island	36	148,075



If Long Island Were a State...



SOCIETY FOR
SCIENCE & THE PUBLIC
Inform. Educate. Inspire.



- If Long Island were a state, it would rank 1st in the number of 2013 Intel Semifinalists (53), just ahead of the rest of New York State (51) and California (48)
- Nearly 20% of 2013 Intel Semifinalists identified from across the country were from Long Island (53 of 300)

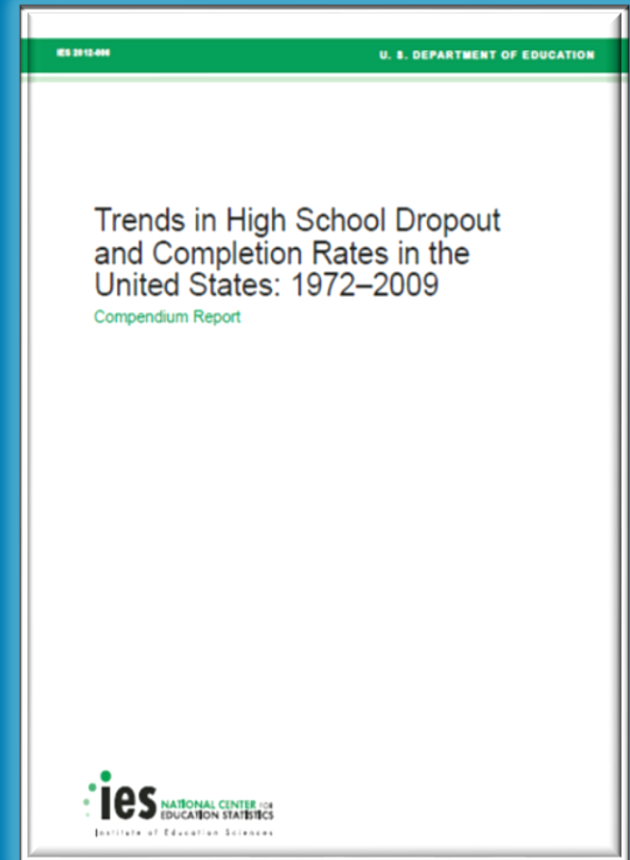


If Long Island Were a State...



- If Long Island were a state, we would be ranked #1 in high school completion rate

AVERAGE GRADUATION RATE OF PUBLIC H.S. STUDENTS – RANKED		No. of Diplomas
Long Island (if LI were a state)	90.8%	34,614
Wisconsin	90.7%	65,410
Vermont	89.6%	7,209
North Dakota/Minnesota	87.4%	7,232/ 59,729
Iowa	85.7%	33,926





If Long Island Were a State...



Four Blue Ribbon Elementary Schools were identified on Long Island in 2013. Only 9 states had more, 35 had fewer.

NASSAU COUNTY

1. Albertson, Meadow Drive Elementary School – 2004
2. Baldwin, Brookside Elementary School – 2009
3. Bethpage, Kramer Lane Elementary School – 2013
4. East Rockaway, Centre Avenue Elementary School – 2009
5. Floral Park, PS 191Q – The Mayflower School – 2012
6. Freeport, New Visions Museum School of Exploration and Discovery – 2006
7. Garden City, Garden City Middle School – 2008
8. Glen Cove, Landing Elementary School – 2010
9. Great Neck, Lakeville School – 2009
10. Hempstead, Franklin School – 2003
11. Hempstead, Fulton Elementary School – 2004
12. Jericho, Cantiague Elementary School – 2012
13. Locust Valley, Bayville Intermediate School – 2013
14. Lynbrook, Lynbrook South Middle School – 2007
15. Malverne, Howard T. Herber Middle School – 2005
16. Massapequa Park, East Lake School – 2005
17. Merrick, Merrick Avenue Middle School – 2008
18. Roslyn Heights, Willets Road School – 2011
19. Stewart Manor, Stewart Manor School – 2006

20. Syosset, South Woods Middle School – 2012
21. Syosset, Village Elementary School – 2006
22. Uniondale, Smith Street Elementary School – 2005
23. Uniondale, Turtle Hook Middle School – 2004
24. Valley Stream UFSD Thirty, Shaw Avenue Elementary School – 2013
25. Westbury, Clarke Middle School – 2011
26. Westbury, Powells Lane Elementary School – 2001
27. Westbury, Westbury Middle School – 2003

SUFFOLK COUNTY

28. Cold Spring Harbor, West Side Elementary – 2013
29. Dix Hills, Forest Park Elementary School – 2011
30. East Islip, Timber Point Elementary School – 2012
31. Greenlawn, Oldfield Middle School – 2011
32. Greenport, Greenport Elementary School – 2010
33. Mount Sinai, Mount Sinai Middle School – 2012
34. Remsenburg, Remsenburg-Speonk Elementary School – 2008
35. Stony Brook, William Sidney Mount Elementary School – 2009
36. West Babylon, South Bay Elementary School – 2007



Long Island School Funding



Long Island School Funding Fair Share



- Long Island enrolls nearly 17% of the state's students, but receives just 12% of school aid
- Long Island schools will receive less state aid in 2013-14 than they received in 2008-09 (\$2.54 billion vs. \$2.62 billion)
- Twenty-eight Long Island school districts, enrolling nearly 40% of the region's students, fall below the state's average in terms of income and property wealth (CWR <1.0)



Long Island School Funding Fair Share



- Only 14% of the region's students are enrolled in the region's 35 "high-wealth" (CWR >2.0) school districts. These school districts receive less than 5% of the state aid allocated to Long Island.
- Redirecting funds to promote equity is a "red herring" – Even if all the funding directed to the region's wealthiest school districts (CWR >2.0) were redistributed across the rest of the state, only an additional \$39 per pupil would be generated.



Long Island School Funding Fair Share



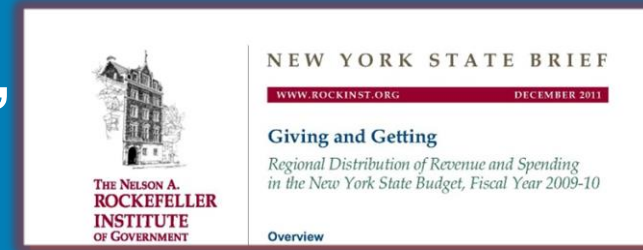
- Income wealth on Long Island has dropped from 40% above the state average in 2001-02 to just a 13% difference today.
- Nearly 25% of the students enrolled in Long Island school districts qualify for free or reduced-price lunch according to federal guidelines.



Long Island School Funding “Giving and Getting”



Rockefeller Institute “Giving and Getting” December 2011



- 21.7% of NYS population reside in downstate suburbs
- 27.4% of NYS receipts come from the downstate suburbs (33% PIT, 26.7% sales tax)
- 23.4% of statewide school enrollment in downstate suburbs
- 17% of statewide school aid to downstate suburbs



Long Island School Funding “Giving and Getting”



Downstate Suburbs Giving and Getting School Aid

NYS Total School Aid	\$21,780,886,059
Downstate Receipts Funding School Aid <i>(27.4% of total)</i>	\$5,967,962,780
Downstate School Aid Paid <i>(17.0% of total)</i>	\$3,697,933,900
Downstate Receipts In Excess of Revenues	\$2,270,028,880



Long Island School Funding “Giving and Getting”



Downstate Suburbs - Giving Beyond The Region

The Downstate Suburbs fund...

➤ 27.4% of all state aid

OR

➤ 100% of aid to downstate school aid

plus

11% of aid to schools in other regions



Long Island School Funding “Giving and Getting”



If Long Island Were a State

Long Islanders have always “dug deep” to support their schools

- Based on 2013-14 budget votes, community support for Long Island schools is stronger than ever. A majority of residents voted “yes” on every Long Island school budget last May.
- If Long Island were a state with the same income and sales tax rates as NYS, over \$1 billion in additional state aid would be available to the region’s schools.
- School property taxes would drop between 10% and 15% (LI 2013-14 School Tax Levy - \$8.2 billion) if Long Island were a state.



Long Island School Funding The GEA



The Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) is a formula in the state budget that reduces the amount of aid each school district is entitled to receive. New York State introduced the GEA in 2009-10 when it was known as the Deficit Reduction Assessment in order to partially reduce the state's \$10 billion budget deficit. It was used in 2011-12 to allocate an unprecedented \$2.56 billion statewide cut in aid. Over the past three years, it has been used to reduce state aid to school districts by \$6.35 billion.

[GEA](#)

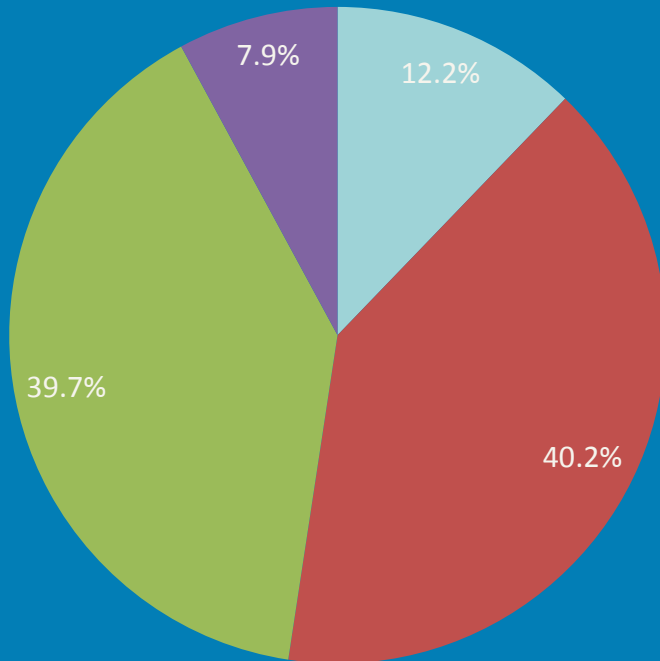


Long Island School Funding The GEA by Region



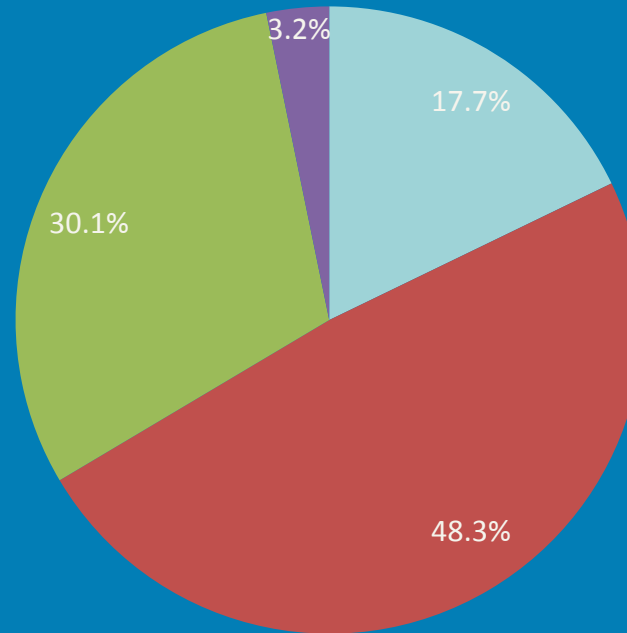
Total State Aid

\$20,830,595,844



GEA Net

\$1,638,788,735



- Long Island
- Rest of State
- New York City
- Big 4

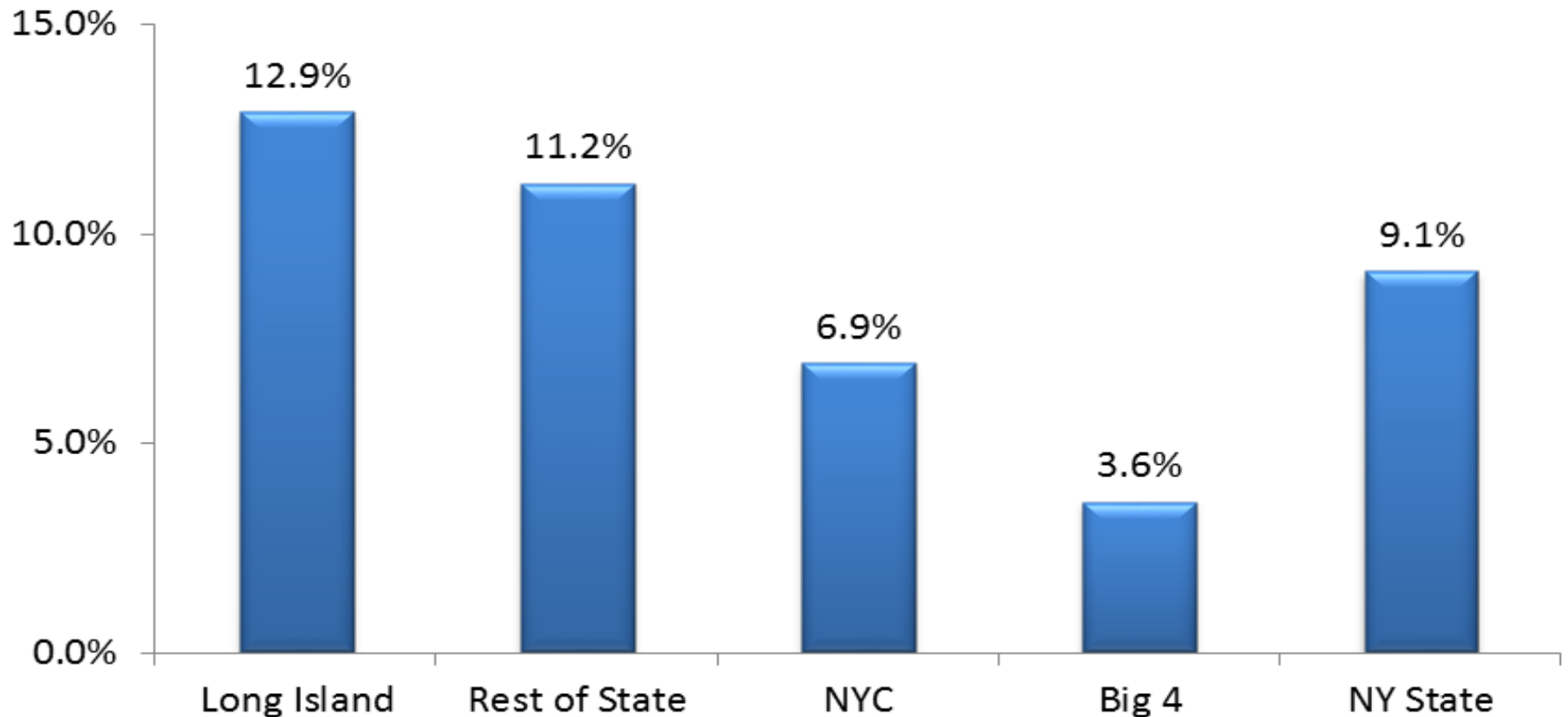


Long Island School Funding The GEA



2013-14

% Aid Loss Due to GEA





Long Island School Funding The GEA - Facts



- The Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) has reduced state aid to Long Island school districts by nearly \$1 billion over the past three years. The GEA further reduces our region's disproportionately low share of aid generated by the funding formulas.
- Had the 2013-14 GEA been eliminated when the state budget was established, Long Island's current school tax levy would be nearly \$300 million, or 4% lower. The GEA increases dependence on local property taxes to fund our schools.



Long Island School Funding The GEA - History



	Long Island	New York State	Long Island % of GEA
2011-12	\$373,671,311	\$2,556,482,217	14.6%
2012-13	\$327,986,679	\$2,156,286,074	15.2%
2013-14	\$290,526,359	\$1,638,788,735	17.7%
3 Year Total	\$992,184,349	\$6,351,557,026	15.6%



Long Island School Funding The GEA Loss By Wealth Group



	Long Island	Rest of State	NYC	Big 4
Low-Wealth Districts	\$841 / 10.5%	\$785 / 10.5%	-	\$459 / 3.6%
Low Mid-Wealth Districts	\$598 / 15.1%	\$603 / 15.5%	\$493 / 6.9%	-
High Mid-Wealth Districts	\$497 / 21.1%	\$427 / 17.5%	-	-
High-Wealth Districts	\$315 / 19.4%	\$285 / 18.1%	-	-
All Districts	\$639 / 12.9%	\$717 / 11.2%	\$493 / 6.9%	\$459 / 3.6%



Long Island School Funding The GEA and Tax Relief



- The projected state surplus of \$2.0 billion does not account for the \$1.638 billion in state aid to schools currently being withheld by the GEA
- Elimination of the GEA will provide for immediate tax relief by reducing the need for property tax revenues through additional state support
- Release of the funds withheld by the GEA would generate an additional \$290 million to Long Island, an amount equal to 3.5% of the region's tax levy



Long Island School Funding Regents State Aid Proposal



- Fails to eliminate GEA loss (\$1.638 billion statewide)
- **Limited GEA restoration redirected through new Transition Operating Aid Formula**
- Fails to recognize need to replace fatally flawed Foundation Aid Formula
- Fails to recognize true level of district need and existing limits on capacity



Long Island School Funding The Executive Budget Proposal



% Change By Category

	Long Island	ROS	NYC	NYS
Foundation Aid	0%	0%	0%	0%
UPK Aid	0%	0%	0%	0%
BOCES Aid	1.4%	4.5%	(.6%)	3.3%
High Tax Aid	0%	0%	0%	0%
Supplemental Excess Cost Aid	0%	0%	0%	0%
Transportation Aid	5.0%	6.1%	4.5%	5.5%
Other Aids	4.5%	3.1%	3.5%	3.5%
GEA Net Restoration	12.8%	14.9%	31.9%	19.7%
Building Aid	5.6%	4.9%	3.0%	4.3%
Total w/o Building Aid	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%	2.7%
Total w/ Building Aid	2.9%	3.0%	2.8%	2.9%
\$ Increase w/o Building Aid	\$58,090,390	\$228,571,102	\$199,690,960	\$486,352,452
\$ Increase w/ Building Aid	\$73,732,021	\$298,730,349	\$230,357,378	\$602,819,748



Long Island School Funding The Executive Budget Proposal



\$ / % GEA Change

	Long Island	Rest of State	NYC	NYS
\$ / % 2013-14 GEA*	\$290,526,359 / 11.59%	\$845,676,678 / 8.53%	\$502,585,698 / 6.09%	\$1,638,788,735 / 7.93%
\$ / % GEA Restored **	\$37,064,096 / 12.76%	\$125,840,166 / 14.88%	\$160,399,725 / 31.91%	\$323,303,987 / 19.73%
\$ / % Net 2014-15 GEA ***	\$253,462,263 / 9.82%	\$719,836,512 / 7.05%	\$342,185,973 / 4.03%	\$1,315,484,748 / 6.18%

** GEA as a percentage of 2013-14 total aid*

*** GEA restoration as a percentage of 2013-14 GEA*

**** GEA as a percentage of 2014-15 total aid*



Long Island School Funding The Executive Budget Proposal



Comparing the Proposals

SCSSA/NCCSS/LIEC Proposal – Year 1

1. Full statewide restoration of GEA	\$1.639 billion (\$290 million to LI)
2. If not full restoration – proportionate to loss	
3. Fund all other formulas	

Executive Budget

1. 19.7% statewide restoration of GEA	\$323.3 million
2. Disproportionate restoration of GEA - LI restoration = 12.8%	\$37.1 million
3. Fund all other formulas	\$36.7 million

Difference

1. Proportionate restoration of the GEA at a rate of 19.7%, rather than 12.8%	A 19.7% restoration generates an additional \$20.1 million in aid (3.7% vs. 2.9% increase)
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Advocacy Priorities



Advocacy Priorities

“How Do You Spell Relief?”



Step #1

Eliminate the GEA in 2014-15:

Provide school districts with the full amount of aid generated by all of the existing funding formulas without the GEA deduction. The GEA reduced aid to Long Island school districts by \$290 million this year, with nearly half of that coming from our 28 low-wealth (CWR <1.0) school districts. THIS IS ESSENTIAL GIVEN A 1.46% TAX CAP LIMIT.



Advocacy Priorities

“How Do You Spell Relief?”



Step #2

Replace the Foundation Formula in 2015-16:

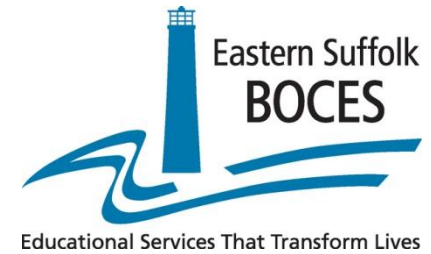
Foundation Aid comprises nearly 75% of all New York State school aid. The Foundation Formula has been fatally flawed since the day it was introduced. Establish a new formula that recognizes the needs of our region and generates a fair share of aid for our schools. THE FOUNDATION AID FORMULA IS COMPLETELY NON-RESPONSIVE TO LONG ISLAND SCHOOL NEEDS.



Advocacy Priorities

The 11-8-13 SCSSA

Letter to the Commissioner



Support the 11-8-13 SCSSA Letter to Commissioner King

- 1. Slow down implementation of new exams*
- 2. Reduce “over testing”/eliminate duplication*
- 3. Re-evaluate APPR*
- 4. Provide alternatives to computerized testing*
- 5. Modify Common Core “roll out” timeline*



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