

Legislative Priorities of the  
Suffolk County Superintendents Association and  
the  
Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services

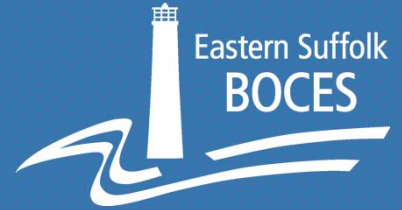


February 7, 2009

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



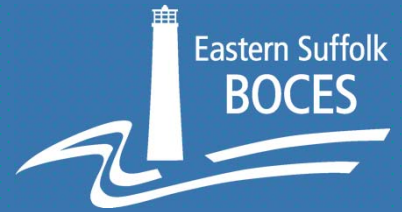
# 2009 Advocacy Topics



- Setting the Record Straight / Popular Misconceptions
- The Executive Budget Proposal
- American Recovery Reinvestment Bill
- SCSSA Shared Services Initiative
- SCSSA School Property Tax Reform Act
- ESBOCES “Advocacy 2009”



# Setting the Record Straight



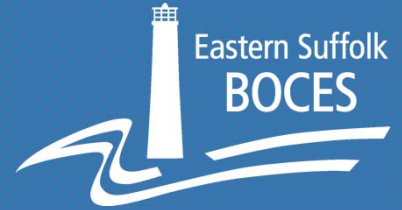
**It is important that misconceptions about school spending and wealth in Suffolk County be corrected. The facts do not necessarily match some of the popularly held beliefs. These include:**

- According to the State Education Department's Regional Cost Index, the purchasing power of \$1,000 in the lowest cost region of the state is only \$702 on Long Island.
- The cost of education on Long Island, when adjusted for regional cost differences, is below the state median.

(NYSED RCI 2006)



# Setting the Record Straight (Continued)

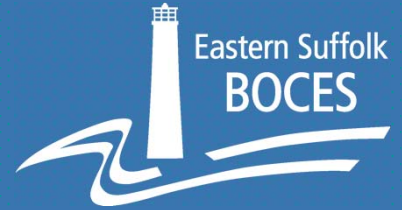


- The local share of school district funding, which is raised primarily through property taxes, is 66% on Long Island. This is approximately 40% greater than the 47% average local share in the rest of the state.
- Recognize that Suffolk County is diverse, with schools and communities all along the continuum of needs and available resources.
- Long Islanders use 20% more of their gross household income to pay property taxes than New Yorkers in general.

(NYSED FARU 2006-07)



# Setting the Record Straight (Continued)

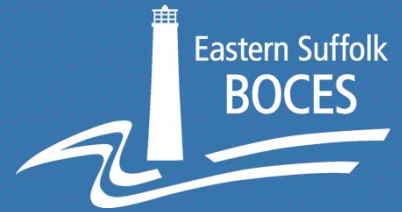


A recent update of *Education: An Economic Powerhouse*, an economic study by Dr. Thomas Conoscenti & Associates, Inc., indicates the following:

- In the 2009-10 academic year, Long Island school district operations are projected to cost **\$10.7 billion**.
- The school districts employ **78,672** persons.
- Total wages and salaries paid in 2009-10 were **\$7.75 billion**.
- The ripple effect in spending in the local economy from these workers' salaries is **\$17.1 billion**.
- School district employees support an additional **53,500 jobs**.



# Setting the Record Straight (Continued)

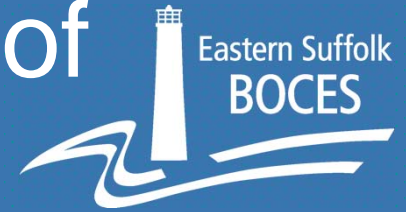


## *Education: An Economic Powerhouse (Continued)*

- School workers and related impacts pay federal and state taxes of **\$5.7 billion**.
- Sales taxes paid to both counties **\$345.9 million**.
- The total direct, indirect and continuing economic impact of Long Island school operations is **\$29.5 billion**.
- Long Island school districts comprise one of the largest industries on Long Island. They represent **9.2 percent** of Long Island's Gross Regional Product.



# 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.

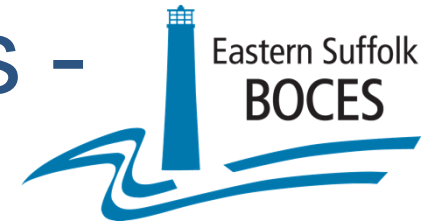
Accordingly, there is a wide gap between perception and reality when it comes to the wealth of Long Island schools.

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 (2008-09)	Percentage of Students
Suffolk County	<b>134,641</b>	<b>52.1</b>
Eastern Suffolk BOCES	107,155	63.9
Western Suffolk BOCES	27,486	30.4
Nassau County (Nassau BOCES)	40,469	19.4
Long Island	175,110	37.6



# Popular Misconceptions - Outcomes



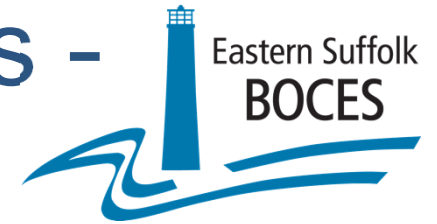
**Long Island students outperform students from across the state by every SED measure. However, a performance gap exists on Long Island.**

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)
<b>Assessment Results-Elementary and Middle Level Students Scoring at Levels 3 and 4</b>					
Grade 4 ELA	70.4	90.8	<b>83.5</b>	73.4	76.2
Grade 4 Mathematics	84.8	97.3	<b>93.1</b>	87.5	89.0
Grade 4 Science	85.1	97.4	<b>94.0</b>	88.0	89.3
Grade 5 Social Studies	81.7	97.6	<b>92.3</b>	85.0	87.0
Grade 8 ELA	47.1	80.0	<b>66.0</b>	52.5	56.0
Grade 8 Mathematics	48.0	87.5	<b>72.3</b>	60.1	63.3
Grade 8 Science	68.9	92.1	<b>84.0</b>	81.3	82.0
Grade 8 Social Studies	59.1	89.5	<b>80.0</b>	69.0	72.0
<b>Regents Exam Results- Students Scoring 65+</b>					
English	73.9	93.8	<b>88.4</b>	84.3	85.4
Mathematics Course A	77.7	95.2	<b>90.0</b>	86.0	87.1
Global History & Geography	67.6	91.3	<b>84.0</b>	78.2	80.0
US History & Government	74.4	93.9	<b>87.0</b>	83.0	84.0
Living Environment	66.5	96.1	<b>86.1</b>	85.3	86.0





# Popular Misconceptions - Revenues



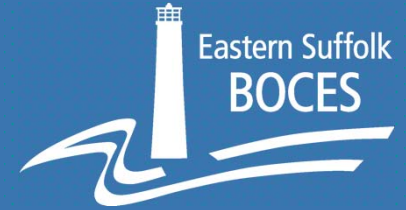
2006-07	State Aid Receipts	STAR Subsidy Receipts	Total Receipts from State	Federal Aid Receipts	Property Tax Levy & Other Revenue	Total Revenue
<b>Nassau County</b>	744,936,812	366,106,687	1,111,043,499	84,472,268	3,222,792,628	4,418,308,395
<i>% of Total Revenue</i>	<b>16.9%</b>	8.3%	25.1%	1.9%	<b>72.9%</b>	
<b>Suffolk County</b>	1,516,940,871	373,147,607	1,890,088,478	110,681,693	2,978,683,424	4,979,453,595
<i>% of Total Revenue</i>	<b>30.5%</b>	7.5%	38.0%	2.2%	<b>59.8%</b>	
<b>Long Island</b>	2,261,877,683	739,254,294	3,001,131,977	195,153,961	6,201,476,052	9,397,761,990
<i>% of Total Revenue</i>	<b>24.1%</b>	7.9%	31.9%	2.1%	<b>66.0%</b>	
<b>Rest of State</b> (excluding NYC and LI)	8,795,952,059	1,721,130,656	10,517,082,715	958,426,347	10,227,995,582	21,703,504,644
<i>% of Total Revenue</i>	<b>40.5%</b>	7.9%	48.5%	4.4%	<b>47.1%</b>	
<b>New York State</b> (excluding NYC; but including LI)	11,057,829,742	2,460,384,950	13,518,214,692	1,153,580,308	16,429,471,634	31,101,266,634
<i>% of Total Revenue</i>	<b>35.6%</b>	7.9%	43.5%	3.7%	<b>52.8%</b>	

**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, 2007



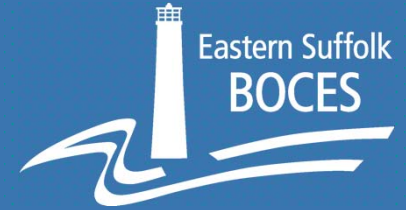
# Issues Involving the Executive Budget Proposal



- State Financial Condition
  - \$15 billion Deficit
  - 225,000 New Yorkers will be laid off
  - 60,000 from Financial Services Sector
- Deficit Reduction Assessment (DRA)
- Tax Cap Proposal
- Preschool Cost Shift
- STAR Reduction



# Executive Budget Proposal Deficit Reduction Assessment

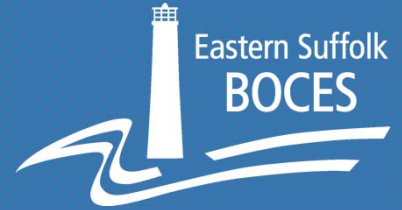


- DRA Reduced Long Island Aid by 7.8% (\$185,188,848)
- DRA Reduced NYC Aid by 4.9% (\$361,867,141)
- DRA Reduced Rest of State\* Aid by 5.5% (\$912,738,639)
- DRA Reduced Statewide Aid by 5.8% (\$1,097,927,487)
- Long Island Aid Reduced at a Rate 42% Greater than the Rest of the State\*

\* Including NYC



# Executive Budget Proposal Deficit Reduction Assessment

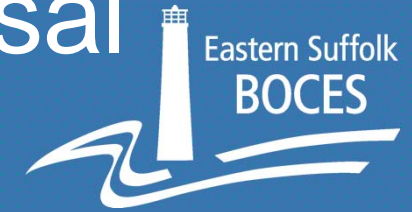


District	CWR	Actual 2008-09 Budget	Actual 2008-09 Tax Levy	Estimated * 2009-10 Tax Levy	% Increase to Tax Levy Due to DRA Loss / 1.9% Preschool Shift
<b>1A</b>	0.447	\$54,845,010	\$17,359,034	\$22,000,000	8.4%
<b>1B</b>	4.286	\$46,512,037	\$22,383,718	\$25,000,000	3.1%
<b>2A</b>	0.763	\$98,250,418	\$50,208,255	\$58,000,000	6.7%
<b>2B</b>	2.001	\$103,617,414	\$88,706,485	\$96,000,000	3.4%
<b>3A</b>	0.606	\$192,905,793	\$72,287,238	\$87,000,000	8.4%
<b>3B</b>	1.723	\$196,188,300	\$162,636,828	\$178,000,000	3.7%

\* Assumes 5% budget increase, Executive Budget State Aid, and Preschool cost shift at 1.9%



# Executive Budget Proposal Tax Cap Proposal



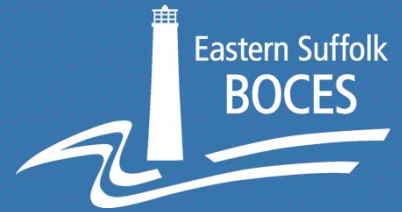
District	CWR	Actual 2008-09 Budget	Estimated * 2009-10 Tax Levy	Estimated 2009-10 Tax Levy Capped (2008-09 + 4% increase)	\$ Reduction
<b>1A</b>	0.447	\$54,845,010	\$22,000,000	\$18,000,000	-\$4,000,000
<b>1B</b>	4.286	\$46,512,037	\$25,000,000	\$23,000,000	-\$2,000,000
<b>2A</b>	0.763	\$98,250,418	\$58,000,000	\$52,000,000	-\$6,000,000
<b>2B</b>	2.001	\$103,617,414	\$96,000,000	\$92,000,000	-\$4,000,000
<b>3A</b>	0.606	\$192,905,793	\$87,000,000	\$75,000,000	-\$12,000,000
<b>3B</b>	1.723	\$196,188,300	\$178,000,000	\$169,000,000	-\$9,000,000

\* Assumes 5% budget increase, Executive Budget State Aid, and Preschool cost shift at 1.9%



# Executive Budget Proposal

## Preschool Cost Shift

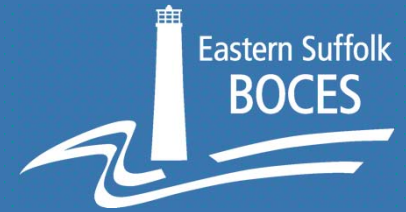


- 2008-09 Property Tax Levy – Long Island \$7,038,365,000
- Preschool Expenses Added to Property Tax Levy \$133,000,000
- Percent Increase to Tax Levy 1.9%



# Executive Budget Proposal

## Economic Impact of Proposed Reductions



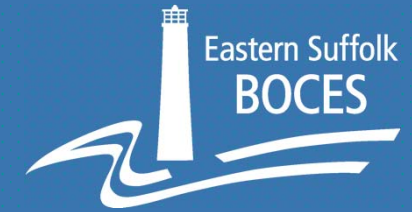
The recent update of *Education: An Economic Powerhouse*, an economic study by Dr. Thomas Conoscenti & Associates, Inc., indicates the following:

- Proposed education aid cuts to L.I. school districts is **6.6 percent**.
- This is a loss of more than **\$157.2 million**.
- The loss of direct and indirect salaries and benefits is **\$275.2 million**.
- More than **2,926** school district jobs will be lost with a total direct and indirect loss of **5,531 jobs**.
- The State and both counties will lose sales tax revenues of nearly **\$4.7 million**.

*The proposed cuts in aid to school districts will prolong a local decline in economic growth and will delay Long Island's recovery from the current recession.*



# Executive Budget Proposal Reduced STAR Subsidies



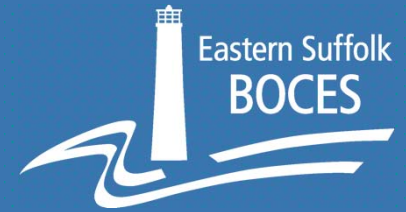
	2008-09				2009-10	
	Basic	Enhanced	Basic Rebate *	Enhanced Rebate *	Basic	Enhanced
<b>Nassau</b>	968	1,978	441	785	855	1,783
<b>Suffolk</b>	950	1,691	429	612	850	1,625
<b>New York State</b>	688	1,217	386	458	629	1,145

\* Rebates Eliminated in Executive Budget





# American Recovery Reinvestment Bill



- Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Released Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> and passed by House on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>
- Should Supplement Not Supplant
- Addresses Priority Related to IDEA (\$13 billion), School Repair (\$14 billion), and Title I (\$13 billion)
- \$79 billion in State Fiscal Relief to Prevent Cutbacks
- Potentially may provide significant direct support during each of the next two years for Suffolk County schools
- Currently under discussion in Senate



# SCSSA Shared Services Initiative

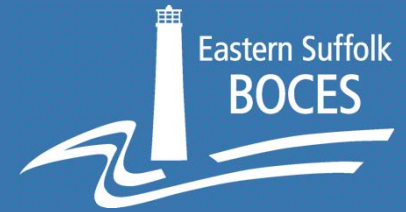
- Collaboration with Suffolk County Executive
- Local Government Efficiency Grants
  - Expanded Regional Transportation
  - School Employee Health Insurance Program
  - E-Procurement
  - Shared School Purchasing Office



# SCSSA School Property Tax Reform Act

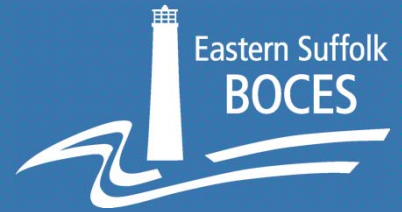
- Comprehensive Proposal with 22 Recommendations
- Major Features Include:
  - State funding of 50% of the cost of special education services, health insurance for school employees, and pension costs for school employees
  - The establishment of a statewide health insurance program for school employees
  - Special Education Mandate Relief
  - Reduction of state aid and STAR funding to offset a share of increased state costs
  - Reduced dependence on property taxes to fund schools
  - Overhaul the formula to allow for new funding patterns

# ESBOCES Advocacy 2009

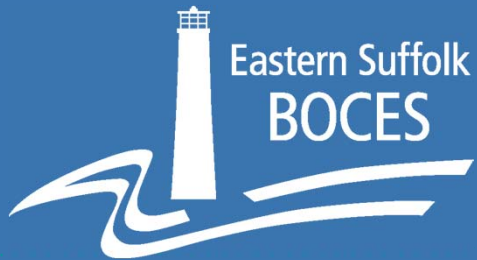


Advocacy 2009 includes BOCES related recommendations from the Board of Regents State Aid proposal:

- Improve the BOCES Aid formula
- Expand BOCES Authority to provide Services
- Encourage Regional Transportation Services
- Eliminate the District Superintendent salary cap



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



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# SCSSA Leadership

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Mr. Anthony Cacciola  
Mr. Wendell Chu  
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Dr. Allan Gerstenlauer  
Mr. Thomas Quinn

# Any Questions?

