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MEMORANDUM

TO: Long Island Superintendents of Schools
FROM: Gary D. Bixhorn
DATE: January 26, 2010
RE: Executive Budget Analysis

Attached is an "Analysis of the Impact of the Executive Budget School Aid Proposal on Long Island Schools". The analysis was prepared by the research staff at Eastern Suffolk BOCES with the assistance of Nassau BOCES personnel.

This analysis is focused on the aid proposal. Other Executive Budget initiatives that may impact school district finances or programming are not included. A supplemental analysis will be developed as we move forward.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this information.

GDB/cj

Attachment

c: Dr. Michael Mensch, Western Suffolk BOCES
Dr. Thomas Rogers, Nassau BOCES
Mr. Edward Zero, Eastern Suffolk BOCES
Mr. Matthew Crosson, Long island Association
Long Island Education Coalition Member Representatives

Analysis of the Impact of the Executive Budget School Aid Proposal on Long Island

January 2010

Regional Impact

- Long Island educates 17% of the state's students, receives only 12.5% of the state aid, but will absorb 13.6% of the statewide aid loss proposed by the Governor's Executive Budget for school aid.
- Long Island's proposed aid cut is 7.2% (\$172,680,929). The statewide cut is 6.7% (\$1,267,274,873).
- The proposed loss of state aid (\$172,680,929) will cause an increase of nearly 6.0% in Long Island's property tax levy assuming that budgets rise by 2.5% next year.
- Long Island's 2010-11 aid reduction (7.2%) is 7% higher than the statewide aid reduction (6.7%).

Foundation Aid

- The Foundation Formula, which drives 84% of all school aid (\$14,892,215,595), continues to be a key reason that Long Island schools are under-funded by the state. Long Island's share of state funding has been maintained with High Tax Aid (\$139,303,943) since the Foundation Formula was introduced.
- Foundation Aid provides \$3,300 per pupil to Long Island schools; this is 38% lower than the statewide average of \$4,600. The statewide average excluding Long Island is \$4,862.

Low-Wealth School Districts

- Nearly 38% of students on Long Island are enrolled in twenty-nine school districts with wealth levels below the state average (CWR<1.0)
- Twenty-nine Long Island low-wealth (CWR<1.0) school districts will suffer an average per pupil aid loss of \$493.
- Twenty-one Suffolk County low-wealth (CWR<1.0) school districts, enrolling 133,000 would have aid reduced by \$68.8 million.
- Eight Nassau County low-wealth (CWR<1.0) school districts, enrolling 41,000 would have aid reduced by \$16.9 million.
- The proposed loss of state aid (\$85.7 million) to Long Island's 29 low-wealth (CWR<1.0) school districts will cause an increase of nearly 9.0% in their combined tax levy assuming that their budgets rise by 2.5% next year.