

Long Island Schools are Not Failing

Long Island's elementary and middle school students outperform every other region of New York State by every measure maintained by the State Education Department.

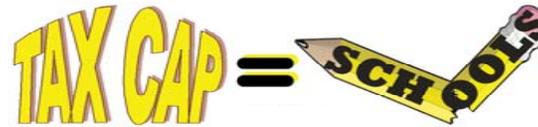
- The percentage of LI students at or above proficiency in grades 3-8 ELA was greater than in the rest of the state (39.7% vs. 29.2%).
- The percentage of LI students at or above proficiency in grades 3-8 math was greater than in the rest of the state (37.5% vs. 29.7%).
- The percentage of LI students 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.

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*.

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 better perspective:

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



What You Can Do *Right Now* to Stop the Destruction!

- ◆ Urge your Board of Education to pass a resolution in opposition to the tax cap.
- ◆ Ask your district to provide a list of cuts or modifications to programs due to the tax cap.
- ◆ Educate your friends, neighbors and allies about the repercussions of the tax cap.
- ◆ Start now, make a concerted effort to get the vote out to support your school budget and trustees who will speak out against the tax cap and the *Gap Elimination Adjustment*.

JOIN TALI!

- ◆ Write to Governor Cuomo and your local legislators and demand support for education!
Governor Cuomo's Email Address:
gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us
- ◆ Find your legislator on our website!



TALI - Take Action Long Island

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Website: www.TakeActionLI.org
E-mail: info@TakeActionLI.org
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Take Action Long Island!

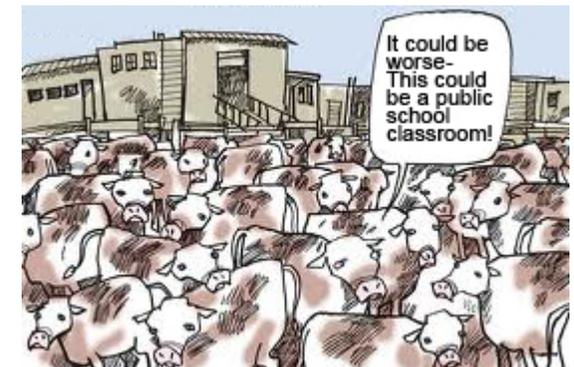
New York State Tax Cap:

Saving Taxpayers Money?

Maybe

Dismantling Successful
Long Island Public
Schools?

Definitely!



"Property taxes in New York are undeniably high. But a tax cap is not the answer. It is an invitation to disaster."

-The New York Times

Brief History

In 2011, New York passed a law limiting local property tax increases to support schools to just 2% or the *Consumer Price Index*, whichever is lower. This limitation compounds the harm caused by



the State's ongoing failure to adequately fund its Founda-

tion Aid Formula, enacted in 2007 in response to the landmark court ruling in *Campaign for Fiscal Equity v. State of NY*. Instead, the State has shortchanged New York schools by over School Aid Shortchanged \$7 billion in

school aid. Districts across the state have lost thousands of teachers and are being forced to eliminate other basic educational necessities, such as extra help for at-risk children, science courses, Advanced Placement classes, sports, music, art and more. School districts all over New York state are facing insolvency.*

*NY SCHOOL REVENUE CAP ADDS TO FUNDING INEQUITIES
-Education Law Center

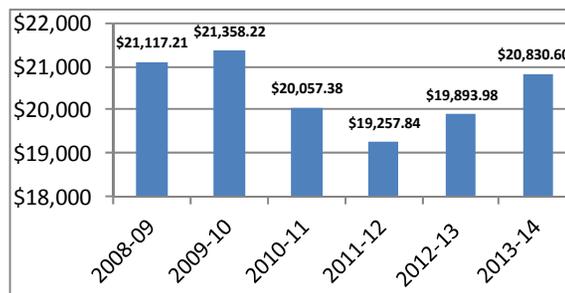
Tax Cap Has Damaged Many Schools on Long Island and Statewide

- Class sizes increased on all grade levels, with some elementary class sizes over 30
- Loss of Art and Music programs
- Loss of full-day kindergartens
- Loss of elementary summer school and recreation programs
- Loss of after-school clubs
- Loss of librarians in elementary schools
- Loss of field trips
- Cuts in busing services
- Cuts to middle school athletic and art programs

3,908 jobs eliminated over the past 3 years!

State Aid Plummets

Total New York State education aid over the past 6 years (in millions of dollars):



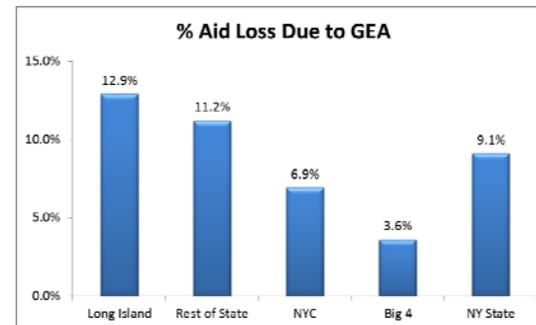
Long Island enrolls 16.3% of the state's students, but receives just 12% of school aid.

According to the Governor's proposed budget, Long Island schools will receive less state aid in 2014-15 than they received in 2008-09 (\$2.58 billion vs. \$2.62 billion)

While called a 2% tax cap, without voter approval it is a 0% tax cap. Without a 60% majority, school budgets cannot be increased by more than 2%, giving a

minority of voters a disproportionate and undemocratic impact. Six of the seven LI districts that attempted to pierce the cap last year failed—all had a majority vote but not a super-majority—an undemocratic standard. Proposed tax credits for keeping school budgets within 2% give even more incentive for people to vote "No" on overriding the tax cap.

Many costs are beyond local control yet fall under the 2% tax cap, including fuel costs, health insurance, unfunded mandates (APPR, DASA, AIS, etc.) and increased school enrollments. State aid does not increase with increased enrollment.



GEA Cripples Local School Budgets

The *Gap Elimination Adjustment* (GEA) is a state budget formula that reduces the amount of aid each school district receives. Introduced in 2009-10 (under former Gov. Paterson) in order to partially reduce New York's \$10 billion budget deficit, the GEA continues even though NY now has a \$2 billion surplus in the state budget.

The GEA has reduced state aid to Long Island school districts by nearly \$1 billion over the past three years. The GEA further reduces LI'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.