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### **PUBLIC EDUCATION AT THE CROSSROADS**

Educational Forum: Tax Cap Means Broken Schools

Take Action Long Island (TALI) hosted a forum on May 1<sup>st</sup> joining residents from Long Island to give a voice to our problems relating to the tax cap and testing. Over 1100 educators, parents, administrators and support staff listened to featured guest speaker Diane Ravitch, author, blogger, professor and former Asst. Secretary of Education discuss how public education is being eroded by greedy corporations advocating charter schools that don't work. Students are being forced to take high stakes tests that do not accurately assess what they know.

A panel discussion followed featuring two Deputy Superintendents for Business, a public school teacher representative and a parent/PTA representative. The result? A unified reaction:

#### **Public Education is in danger!**

Governor Cuomo's tax cap is choking our districts. Local school board decisions are being controlled by the bureaucrats in Albany and one person, one vote is being violated by forcing residents to reach a 60% majority in order to exceed the tax cap and prevent massive cuts. Districts are slashing the arts, sports and personnel. Large increases in class size are occurring and districts are facing unfunded mandates that include excessive costs for testing.

How can we ensure that our public schools stay strong and properly funded?

How can a local community provide the educational programs it deems appropriate for its children?

Our fight continues June 8<sup>th</sup> with a rally in Albany.

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If you would like more information about this event and our organization, please contact

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