



# THE REALITY OF LONG ISLAND IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT; DEMOGRAPHICS, ECONOMICS & GOVERNANCE

January 28, 2012

**Presented by:**

Gary D. Bixhorn

Eastern Suffolk BOCES Chief Operating Officer and  
Suffolk County School Superintendents Association Legislative Chairperson



# Overview



- Education Rankings and Student Outcomes
- Taxes, Demographics, and Costs
- The Executive Budget
- The Tax Cap
- What You Can Do



# The Reality of Long Island: NYS Education Ranking



- The 2012 Quality Counts study, the most credible, comprehensive, annual study of education policy, practices, and outcomes, ranks **New York third** (behind Maryland, and closely bunched with Massachusetts and Virginia) among all states.

Education Week

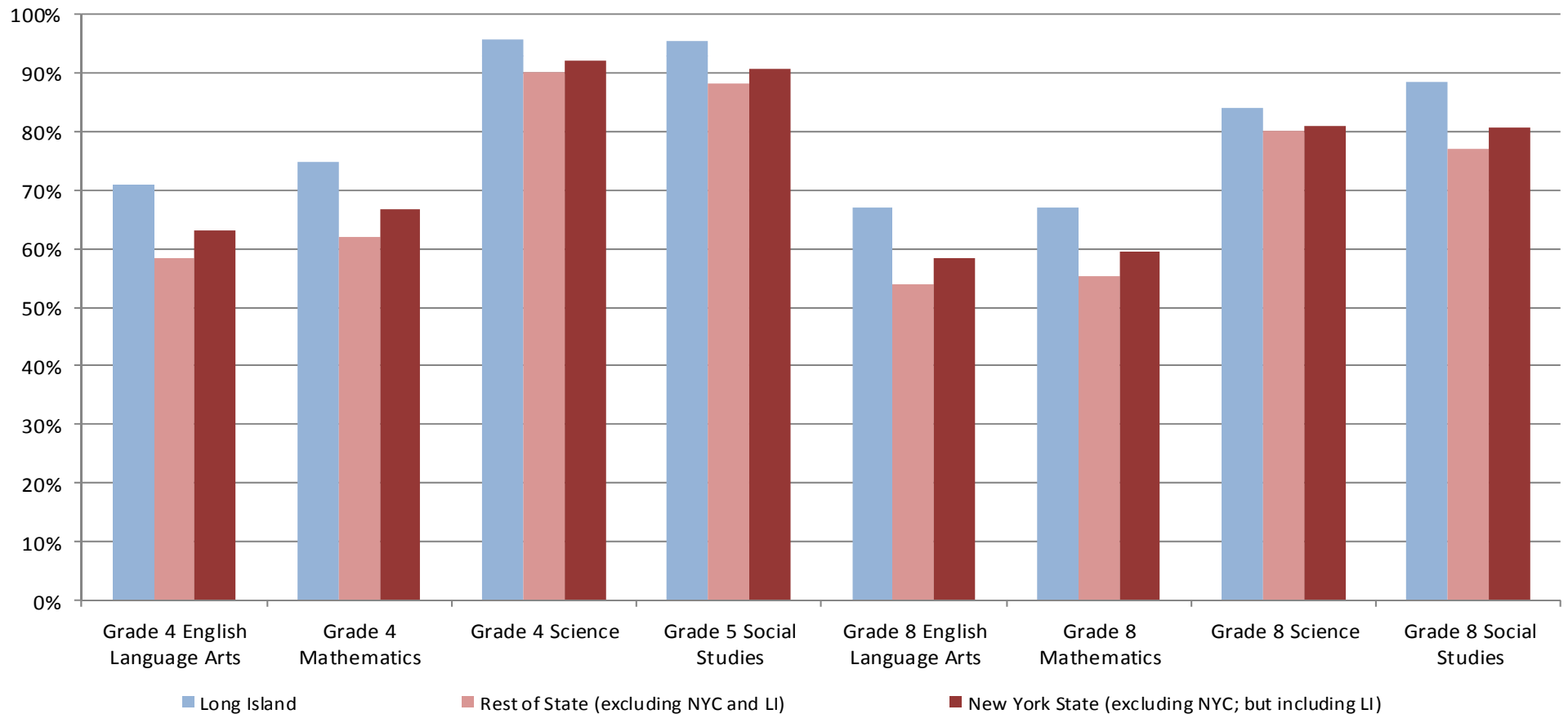


# The Reality of Long Island: Outcomes



- Long Island's elementary and middle level students outperform students from every other region of New York State by every measure maintained by SED.

**2009-10 Percentage of Elementary and Middle Level Students Scoring at Levels 3 and 4**



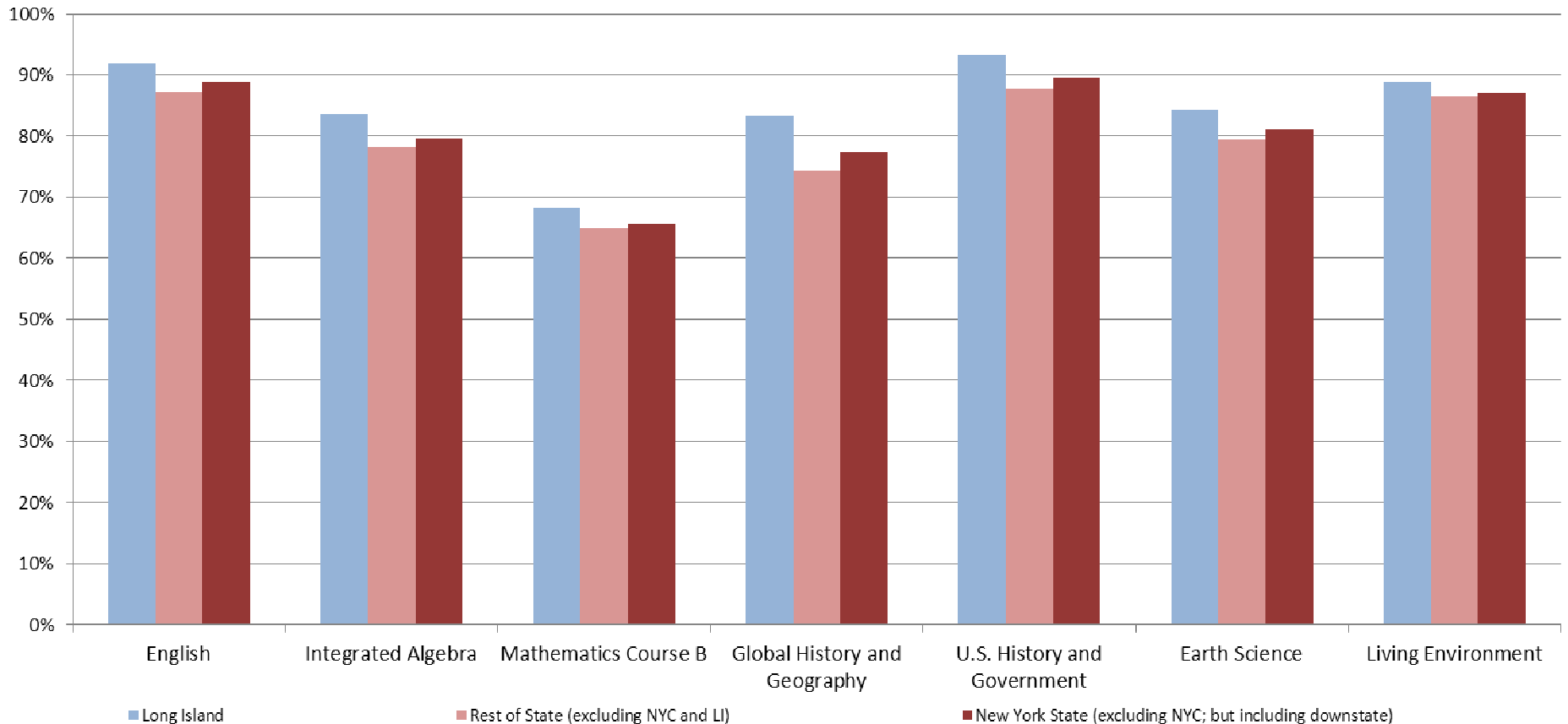


# The Reality of Long Island: Outcomes



- Long Island's high school students outperform students from every other region of New York State by every measure maintained by SED.

Percentage of Secondary Students Scoring 65+ on Regents Exams





# The Reality of Long Island: Outcomes / H.S. Completion



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

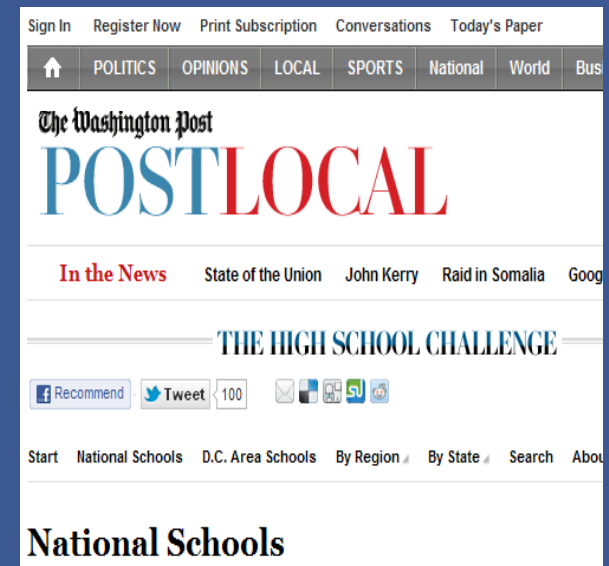
AVERAGE GRADUATION RATE OF PUBLIC H.S. STUDENTS – RANKED		No. of Diplomas Conferred
Long Island (if LI were a state)	90.8%	34,614
Wisconsin	90.7%	65,410
Vermont	89.6%	7,209
North Dakota/Minnesota	87.4%	7,232/ 59,729
Iowa	85.7%	33,926



# The Reality of Long Island: Outcomes / H.S. Rankings



- The Washington Post ranked the top 1,900 high schools in the United States. The top 7% of 27,000 schools, includes 54 Long Island high schools.
- **Nearly half (54 of 116) of the high schools on Long Island are among the top schools identified by the Washington Post.**





## The Reality of Long Island: Outcomes / Intel



- If Long Island were a state, we would be ranked #1 in Intel Semifinalists.
  1. Long Island (61)
  2. New York-excluding LI (44)
  3. California (40)
  4. Maryland (18)
  5. Virginia (13)



# The Reality of Long Island: State Support vs. Property Taxes



- If Long Island were a state and we stopped redistributing our income to other regions, we could keep up to \$5 billion on Long Island— enough to lower our property taxes by 70%.
- According to a Rockefeller Institute report, the downstate suburbs provide 27.4% of New York State's total receipts, yet only 17.7% of State expenditures are directed to the downstate suburbs.



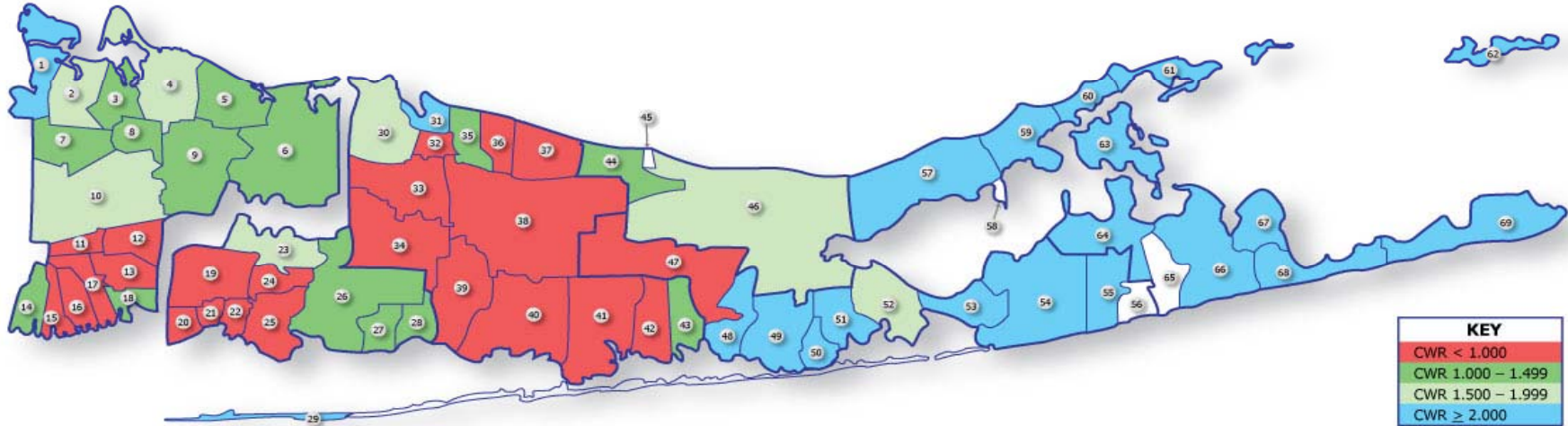
# The Reality of Long Island: Demographics



- Nearly half (49%) of the students in Suffolk County are enrolled in school districts that fall below the state wealth average.
- About 35% of Long Island students are in low wealth districts.
- Long Island's wealth per pupil has dropped dramatically since 2000 (from 40% to 13% above average).
- Approximately 20% percent of Long Island students qualify for Free and Reduced Price Lunch.

# The Reality of Long Island: Wealth

## Suffolk County School Districts and Combined Wealth Ratios (CWR)



### Western Suffolk/CWR

#### Huntington/Babylon/Smithtown/CWR

- 1 Cold Spring Harbor CSD 3.432
- 2 Huntington UFSD 1.777
- 3 Harborfields CSD 1.194
- 4 Northport-East Northport UFSD 1.819
- 5 Kings Park CSD 1.251
- 6 Smithtown CSD 1.311
- 7 South Huntington UFSD 1.157
- 8 Elwood UFSD 1.093
- 9 Commack UFSD 1.114
- 10 Half Hollow Hills CSD 1.617
- 11 Wyandanch UFSD 0.427
- 12 Deer Park UFSD 0.897
- 13 North Babylon UFSD 0.798
- 14 Amityville UFSD 1.167
- 15 Copiague UFSD 0.735
- 16 Lindenhurst UFSD 0.787
- 17 West Babylon UFSD 0.900
- 18 Babylon UFSD 1.408

### Eastern Suffolk/CWR

#### Islip/CWR

- 19 Brentwood UFSD 0.475
- 20 West Islip UFSD 0.968
- 21 Bay Shore UFSD 0.927
- 22 Islip UFSD 0.988
- 23 Hauppauge UFSD 1.592
- 24 Central Islip UFSD 0.618
- 25 East Islip UFSD 0.893
- 26 Connetquot CSD 1.091
- 27 Sayville UFSD 1.032
- 28 Bayport-Blue Point UFSD 1.094
- 29 Fire Island UFSD 33.893

#### Brookhaven/CWR

- 30 Three Village CSD 1.558
- 31 Port Jefferson UFSD 3.227
- 32 Comsewogue UFSD 0.872
- 33 Middle Country CSD 0.807
- 34 Sachem CSD 0.928
- 35 Mount Sinai UFSD UFSD 1.105
- 36 Miller Place UFSD 0.946
- 37 Rocky Point UFSD 0.761
- 38 Longwood CSD 0.902
- 39 Patchogue-Medford UFSD 0.865
- 40 South Country CSD 0.935
- 41 William Floyd UFSD 0.571
- 42 Center Moriches UFSD 0.882
- 43 East Moriches UFSD 1.207

#### Riverhead/CWR

- 44 Shoreham-Wading River CSD 1.251
- 45 Little Flower UFSD\*
- 46 Riverhead CSD 1.609

#### Southold/CWR

- 57 Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD 2.399
- 58 New Suffolk Common SD\*
- 59 Southold UFSD 2.872
- 60 Greenport UFSD 2.510
- 61 Oysterponds UFSD 6.099
- 62 Fishers Island UFSD 28.257

#### Shelter Island/CWR

- 63 Shelter Island UFSD 9.118

#### Southampton/CWR

- 47 Eastport/South Manor CSD 0.832
- 48 Remsenburg-Speonk UFSD 5.338
- 49 Westhampton Beach UFSD 4.628
- 50 Quogue UFSD 23.551
- 51 East Quogue UFSD 2.729
- 52 Hampton Bays UFSD 1.929
- 53 Tuckahoe Common SD 3.977
- 54 Southampton UFSD 11.727
- 55 Bridgehampton UFSD 36.249
- 56 Sagaponack Common SD\*

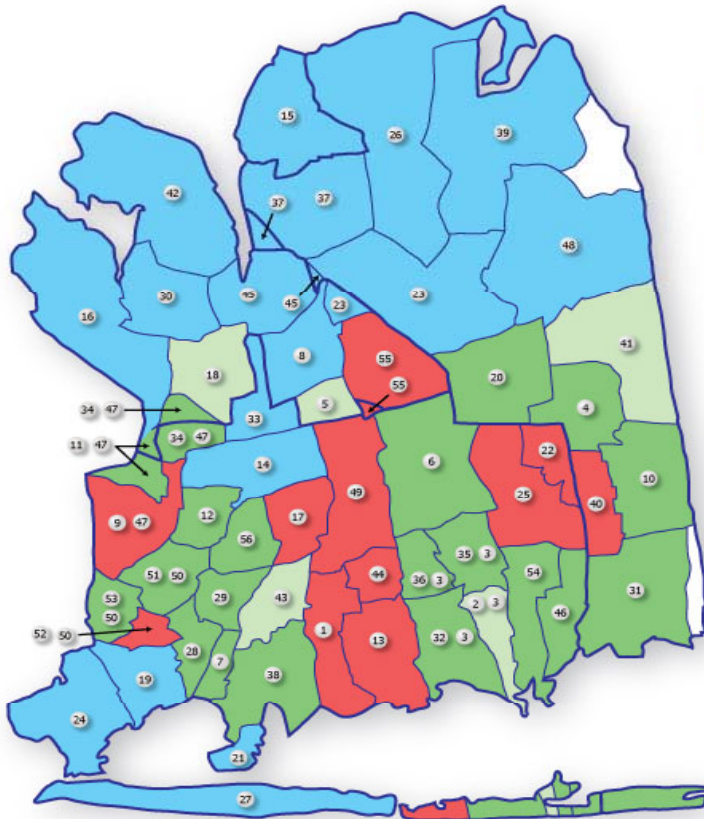
#### East Hampton/CWR

- 64 Sag Harbor UFSD 5.663
- 65 Wainscott Common SD\*
- 66 East Hampton UFSD 8.902
- 67 Springs UFSD 3.600
- 68 Amagansett UFSD 24.478
- 69 Montauk UFSD 8.338

# The Reality of Long Island: Wealth



## Nassau County School Districts and Combined Wealth Ratios (CWR)



KEY	
CWR < 1.000	
CWR 1.000 – 1.499	
CWR 1.500 – 1.999	
CWR ≥ 2.000	

### Glen Cove/CWR

- 15 Glen Cove City SD 2.017

### Long Beach/CWR

- 27 Long Beach City SD 2.265

### Hempstead/CWR

- 1 Baldwin UFSD 0.990
- 2 Bellmore UFSD 1.551
- 3 Bellmore-Merrick CHSD 1.248
- 6 East Meadow UFSD 1.068
- 7 East Rockaway UFSD 1.227
- 9 Elmont UFSD 0.840
- 11 Floral Park-Bellerose UFSD 1.409
- 12 Franklin Square UFSD 1.094
- 13 Freeport UFSD 0.688
- 14 Garden City UFSD 2.593
- 17 Hempstead UFSD 0.507
- 19 Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD 2.094
- 21 Island Park UFSD 2.253
- 22 Island Trees UFSD 0.857
- 24 Lawrence UFSD 3.354
- 25 Levittown UFSD 0.857
- 28 Lynbrook UFSD 1.334
- 29 Malverne UFSD 1.326
- 32 Merrick UFSD 1.445
- 33 Mineola UFSD 2.009
- 34 New Hyde Pk.-Garden City Pk. UFSD 1.307
- 35 North Bellmore UFSD 1.045
- 36 North Merrick UFSD 1.031
- 38 Oceanside UFSD 1.285
- 43 Rockville Centre UFSD 1.880
- 44 Roosevelt UFSD 0.578
- 46 Seaford UFSD 1.208
- 47 Sewanhaka CHSD 1.077
- 49 Uniondale UFSD 0.854
- 50 Valley Stream CHSD 1.031
- 51 Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen 1.007
- 52 Valley Stream UFSD Twenty-Four 0.966
- 53 Valley Stream UFSD Thirty 1.129
- 54 Wantagh UFSD 1.040
- 56 West Hempstead UFSD 1.376

### North Hempstead/CWR

- 5 Carle Place UFSD 1.551
- 8 East Williston UFSD 2.370
- 16 Great Neck UFSD 3.358
- 18 Herricks UFSD 1.684
- 30 Manhasset UFSD 3.974
- 42 Port Washington UFSD 2.744
- 45 Roslyn UFSD 2.510
- 55 Westbury UFSD 0.990

### Oyster Bay/CWR

- 4 Bethpage UFSD 1.260
- 10 Farmingdale UFSD 1.155
- 20 Hicksville UFSD 1.491
- 23 Jericho UFSD 3.031
- 26 Locust Valley CSD 5.011
- 31 Massapequa UFSD 1.440
- 37 North Shore CSD 2.341
- 39 Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD 4.624
- 40 Plainedge UFSD 0.983
- 41 Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD 1.518
- 48 Syosset CSD 2.061



# The Reality of Long Island: Costs



- The per pupil cost of education on Long Island is \$21,970.
- The per pupil cost of education in New York State is \$19,921.
- According to the Regional Cost Index utilized in the development of the Regents State Aid Proposal, costs on Long Island are 36.6% higher than in the lowest cost region of the state.
- The regionally adjusted cost per pupil for Long Island (\$14,229) is 10% below the cost of the county at the median (Madison-\$15,864).



# The Reality of Long Island: The Executive Budget



- The Executive Budget restores \$64.7 million of the \$90.4 million Long Island schools lost last year.
- The Long Island school aid increase results from the following:

Building Aid	\$8.4 million
Transportation Aid	\$9.4 million
BOCES Aid	\$10 million
GEA Reduction	\$20.1 million
All Other (7)	\$16.6 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64.5 million</b>

- The proposed Executive Budget would fund Long Island schools at the 2009-10 level.



# The Reality of Long Island: The Executive Budget



- The Executive Budget would fund 21.4% of educational expenditures on Long Island in 2012-13. In 1988-89, 24 years ago, the share was 32.2%.
- The Executive Budget provides \$4,440 per pupil to Long Island schools. This is 30.8% below the rest of the state (\$6,415).
- Proposed shifts in preschool special education costs to school districts will be greater than the aid increase for many districts.



# The Reality of Long Island: Tax Levy Basics



- The school property tax levy represents the amount of funding a school district needs to raise through property taxes to balance its budget.
- **The Property Tax Levy is calculated as follows:**

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Projected School Spending} \\ (-) \text{ minus state aid} \\ (-) \text{ minus other revenues} \\ \hline (-) \text{ minus prior year's fund balance} \\ \hline = \text{Property Tax Levy} \end{array}$$

- On Long Island, property taxes comprise nearly 70% of school funding.



# The Reality of Long Island: Introducing the Tax Cap



- The Tax Cap applies to the levy, not the rate or the homeowner's payment.
- The Levy Cap is calculated by a complex formula created by NYS. Exceptions will allow the cap to exceed 2%, and CPI could hold the cap below 2% - it's not simply 2%.
- The Tax Levy must be approved by the voters.
  - A 60% majority is needed to pass a Tax Levy above the Cap.
  - A 50% majority is required to pass a Tax Levy at or below the Cap.
- If the voters reject the levy twice, **it is capped at 0.0%.**



# The Reality of Long Island: The Impact of the Cap



Typical Large Low-Wealth District (CWR 0.5 – 0.9, Enrollment 8,500)

	2011-12	2012-13 with 2.5% Cap	2012-13 with 5% Rollover	\$ Cut from Rollover
<b>Tax Levy</b>	\$96,500,000	\$98,912,000		
<b>State Aid</b>	\$67,800,000	\$69,834,000		
<b>Fund Balance</b>	\$14,400,000	\$14,400,000		
<b>Budget</b>	\$178,700,000	\$183,146,000	\$187,635,000 <i>(This budget increase would have raised the tax levy by 7.2%.)</i>	- \$4,489,000 \$528 p/p <i>(This is what needs to be cut from the rollover budget to stay within the cap.)</i>

Assumptions:

Tax Cap = 2.5%

State Aid = + 3.0%

Fund Balance = No Change



# The Reality of Long Island: The Impact of the Cap



Typical Mid-Wealth District (CWR 1.4 – 1.6, Enrollment 4,700)

	2011-12	2012-13 with 2.5% Cap	2012-13 with 5% Rollover	\$ Cut from Rollover
<b>Tax Levy</b>	\$91,600,000	\$93,890,000		
<b>State Aid</b>	\$12,700,000	\$13,081,000		
<b>Fund Balance</b>	\$7,100,000	\$7,100,000		
<b>Budget</b>	\$111,400,000	\$114,071,000	\$116,970,000  <i>(This budget increase would have raised the tax levy by 5.7%.)</i>	- \$2,899,000 \$617 p/p  <i>(This is what needs to be cut from the rollover budget to stay within the cap.)</i>

Assumptions:

Tax Cap = 2.5%

State Aid = + 3.0%

Fund Balance = No Change



# The Reality of Long Island: The Impact of the Cap



- How will the Tax Cap impact your school district?
- The impact can vary dramatically district to district.
- The School Board and Superintendent are working on this now – Talk with them!



## What You Can Do

- Familiarize yourself with the facts and become an **advocate for the region**. Use the SCSSA/NCCSS advocacy program.
- Long Island has built a strong educational system primarily with local funding – The state should be providing more support as the tax cap limits local support.
- **Support an overhaul of the Foundation Formula.** The Formula must recognize the cost of doing business in the region, and the region’s economic significance within the state.
- All NYS students deserve a Long Island quality education. The state should seek to assure that all students have access to the same programs provided in the region’s highest performing districts.

**Support educational reforms that “level up” all schools to match Long Island’s best.**



# SCSSA Leadership

## Board of Directors

- President** – Dr. Alan B. Groveman, Connetquot CSD  
**President-Elect** – Mr. James F. McKenna, Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD  
**Vice President** – Dr. Roberta A. Gerold, Middle Country CSD  
**Treasurer** – Mr. Anthony Cacciola, West Babylon UFSD  
**Secretary** – Ms. Susan A. Schnebel, Islip UFSD  
**Past-President** – Dr. Anthony J. Annunziato, Bayport-Blue Point UFSD

## Legislative Committee

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Mr. Gary D. Bixhorn  
Eastern Suffolk BOCES

### **Babylon Cluster**

Mr. Anthony Cacciola  
West Babylon UFSD

### **Islip Cluster**

Ms. Patricia Sullivan-Kriss  
Hauppauge UFSD

### **Huntington/Smithtown Cluster**

Mr. Edward L. Ehmann  
Smithtown CSD

### **East End Cluster**

Mr. David Gamberg  
Southold UFSD

### **Brookhaven/Riverhead Cluster**

Dr. Allan Gerstenlauer  
Longwood CSD

## Executive Director

*Dr. Candee Swenson*



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Joseph LoSchiavo

Anne Mackesey  
William K. Miller  
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**Chief Operating Officer**

Gary D. Bixhorn

**Deputy Superintendent**

Julie Davis Lutz, Ph.D. – Educational Services

**Associate Superintendent**

Barbara M. Salatto – Management Services

**Assistant Superintendent**

R. Terri McSweeney, Ed.D. – Human Resources

**Director**

Andrea M. Grooms, Ph.D. – Communications, Research and Recruitment

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# SCSSA and ESBOCES CTF Communications Strategies Survey Highlighted Results



- ✓ **36 respondents**
- ✓ **Most common communication strategies**
  - ✓ **w/parents-** face to face, telephone messaging, strategically placed signs
  - ✓ **w/staff-** face to face, email, telephone
  - ✓ **w/community members w/out children-** face to face, strategically placed signs— not a targeted group by many districts
- ✓ **72% don't use social media**
- ✓ **69% don't plan to use social media**
- ✓ **Those that use social media primarily use Facebook**

## SCSSA and ESBOCES CTF Communications Strategies Highlighted Results



- ✓ **Most effective strategies**
  - ✓ **w/parents-** face to face, telephone messaging, email
  - ✓ **w/staff-** face to face, telephone messaging, email
  - ✓ **w/community members w/out children-** face to face, focus groups, community forums
- ✓ **58% of districts anticipate their proposed budget will require an override vote**
  - ✓ most plan to communicate this by way of letters/emails, meetings w/civic groups, and telephone messaging
- ✓ **58% of districts have a plan for building/improving community engagement**
- ✓ **83% of districts communicate with their community on a year-round basis**