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# SCSSA Guiding Principles for Advocacy

Long Islanders support and value public education. Time and time again, Long Islanders have sacrificed to maintain the quality of the schools that drew them to the region and that they have dug deep into their pockets to build. Accordingly, the SCSSA prepares our annual Advocacy Program based upon these guiding principles:

- *Long Islanders acknowledge that the quality of life in our region is directly tied to our outstanding public schools.*
- *Long Islanders acknowledge that our public schools have to be preserved and are “worth fighting for.”*
- *Long Islanders acknowledge that there is an achievement and revenue gap between our most wealthy and least wealthy school districts.*
- *Long Islanders agree to work to close the gap by bringing the bottom up.*
- *Long Islanders resist efforts to undermine public education by those who paint all public schools with a broad brush.*
- *Long Islanders have no higher priority than providing a safe, secure school environment for students and staff.*
- *Long Islanders support structural changes that will assure that our high-quality schools are sustainable in this challenging economic environment.*
- *Long Islanders continue efforts to educate our fellow New Yorkers about the reality of Long Island and dispel the longstanding misperceptions of our region.*
- *Long Islanders support the principles of “local control” that have enabled communities to build school districts that reflect their values.*
- *Long Islanders acknowledge that students need access to multiple “pathways” to high school graduation in order to join the workforce of the future.*