How Do You Spell Relief?
ELIMINATE THE G – E – A!

N-SSBA Resolutions Dinner

September 30, 2013

Presented by:
Gary D. Bixhorn
Eastern Suffolk BOCES Chief Operating Officer and
Suffolk County School Superintendents Association Legislative Chairperson
The Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) is a formula in the state budget that reduces the amount of aid each school district is entitled to receive. New York State introduced the GEA in 2009-10 when it was known as the Deficit Reduction Assessment in order to partially reduce the state’s $10 billion budget deficit. It was used in 2011-12 to allocate an unprecedented $2.56 billion statewide cut in aid. Over the past three years, it has been used to reduce state aid to school districts by $6.35 billion.
Fact #1

- The Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) has reduced state aid to Long Island school districts by nearly $1 billion over the past three years. The GEA further reduces our region’s disproportionately low share of aid generated by the funding formulas.

   You must know your district’s share of the $1 billion!

Fact #2

- 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.

   You must know the impact the additional funding would have had on your district!
Fast Facts

• Long Island enrolls nearly 17% of the state’s students, but receives just 12% of school aid.

• Despite the fact that Long Island school districts receive just 12% of school aid, 18% of the statewide GEA reduction is absorbed by Long Island school districts.

• Long Island schools will receive less state aid in 2013-14 than they received in 2008-09 ($2.54 billion vs. $2.62 billion).
Fast Facts (cont’d)

• Twenty-eight Long Island school districts, enrolling nearly 40% of the region’s students, fall below the state’s average in terms of income and property wealth (CWR <1.0).

• Nearly 25% of the students enrolled in Long Island school districts qualify for free or reduced-price lunch according to federal guidelines.

• Only 14% of the region’s students are enrolled in the region’s 35 “high-wealth” (CWR >2.0) school districts. These school districts receive less than 5% of the state aid allocated to Long Island.
## Long Island/State Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Long Island</th>
<th>New York State</th>
<th>Long Island % of GEA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>$373,671,311</td>
<td>$2,556,482,217</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>$327,986,679</td>
<td>$2,156,286,074</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>$290,526,359</td>
<td>$1,638,788,735</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Year Total</td>
<td>$992,184,349</td>
<td>$6,351,557,026</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**What You Need to Know – By The Numbers**

**2013-14 NYS Impact by Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>GEA Loss</th>
<th>% of Aid Loss</th>
<th>GEA Loss Per Pupil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Island</td>
<td>$290,526,359</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>$639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>$502,585,698</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>$493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big 4</td>
<td>$52,686,067</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>$459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of State</td>
<td>$792,990,611</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>$717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Total</td>
<td>$1,638,788,735</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>$608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What You Need to Know – By The Numbers

% Aid Loss Due to GEA

- Long Island: 12.9%
- Rest of State: 11.2%
- NYC: 6.9%
- Big 4: 3.6%
- NY State: 9.1%
### 2013-14 Long Island Impact By Wealth Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wealth Group</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>GEA Loss</th>
<th>% of Aid Loss</th>
<th>GEA Loss Per Pupil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CWR &gt;2.0</td>
<td>59,751</td>
<td>$18,850,483</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>$315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWR 1.5 – 2.0</td>
<td>61,685</td>
<td>$30,669,880</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>$497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWR 1.0 – 1.5</td>
<td>163,258</td>
<td>$97,705,255</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>$598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWR &lt; 1.0</td>
<td>170,309</td>
<td>$143,300,741</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>$841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>455,003</td>
<td>$290,526,359</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>$639</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eliminate the GEA in 2014-15:

Provide school districts with the full amount of aid generated by all of the existing funding formulas without the GEA deduction. The GEA reduced aid to Long Island school districts by $290 million this year, with nearly half of that coming from our 28 low-wealth (CWR <1.0) school districts.

Replace the Foundation Formula in 2015-16:

Foundation Aid comprises nearly 75% of all New York State school aid. The Foundation Formula has been fatally flawed since the day it was introduced. Establish a new formula that recognizes the needs of our region and generates a fair share of aid for our schools.
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