

NEW YORK STATE
PERPETUATES
EDUCATIONAL
INEQUITY ON
LONG ISLAND



**PUBLIC POLICY AND
EDUCATION FUND** OF NEW YORK

This report was prepared by Marina Marcou-O'Malley, Operations and Policy Director for the Alliance for Quality Education.

Highlights

- There are ten school districts on Long Island that are high needs and educate 93% Black and Latino students and 70% students that live in poverty. These school districts are owed \$485 million in Foundation Aid as a result of the statewide settlement of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit.
- In past years, the Republican Senate Majority has never proposed a budget that would fully fund the Foundation Aid, thus leaving these 10 Long Island districts severely underfunded. The neglect of these Long Island districts has happened despite the fact that both the Majority Leader and the Senate Education Chair are from Long Island along with a powerful block of Republican Senators.
- The Senate Majority has made no commitments this year to fully fund Foundation Aid. By contrast the New York State Assembly has announced that its budget bill will include a full phase-in of Foundation Aid—the Assembly enacted a similar bill last year.
- The priorities of the Senate Majority in the 2016 state budget ensured differential treatment of these 10 districts compared to wealthy and average need schools.
- Governor Cuomo’s Executive Budget would provide these 10 school districts a mere 3.6 percent of the Foundation Aid they are owed.
- While Foundation Aid would address the needs of these ten high need school districts, but it would also do the same for all districts on Long Island.

The Republican Senate Majority needs to commit to a phase in and fully funding the statewide settlement of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity

Introduction

Long Island is a place of extremes: extreme segregation, poverty and wealth. It is the most segregated region in the New York state.¹ Long Island is home to 10 of the 16 school districts in New York State that have 80% or more Black and Latino students—including 9 of the top 10. These 10 hyper-segregated school districts are the subject of this report. Not only are they racially segregated, with 93% of their students Black and Latino, they are also economically segregated with 70% of their students are economically disadvantaged.

These schools have been consistently shortchanged by the Republican Senate Majority despite the tremendous power of the Long Island delegation within this Majority—which includes both the Majority Leader and the Education Chair. This report examines how these 10 high need school districts are impacted from the proposed Executive Budget in relation to how much they are owed under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity statewide settlement of 2007. The report includes a demographic profile of each district. The report also demonstrates how in contrast to average need and wealthier school districts these school districts have received differential treatment by the Senate Majority with regards to school funding priorities.

¹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/06/05/nyregion/study-calls-li-most-segregated-suburb.html> and <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2011/02/24/long-island-among-americas-most-segregated-metro-areas/>

Black and Latino Students Shortchanged

The ten high need school districts on Long Island have 93% Black and Latino students and 70% economically disadvantaged students. Below is the demographic profile for each of the ten districts. Governor Cuomo’s executive budget would only provide them with 3.6 % of the amount of Foundation Aid that is owed to them.

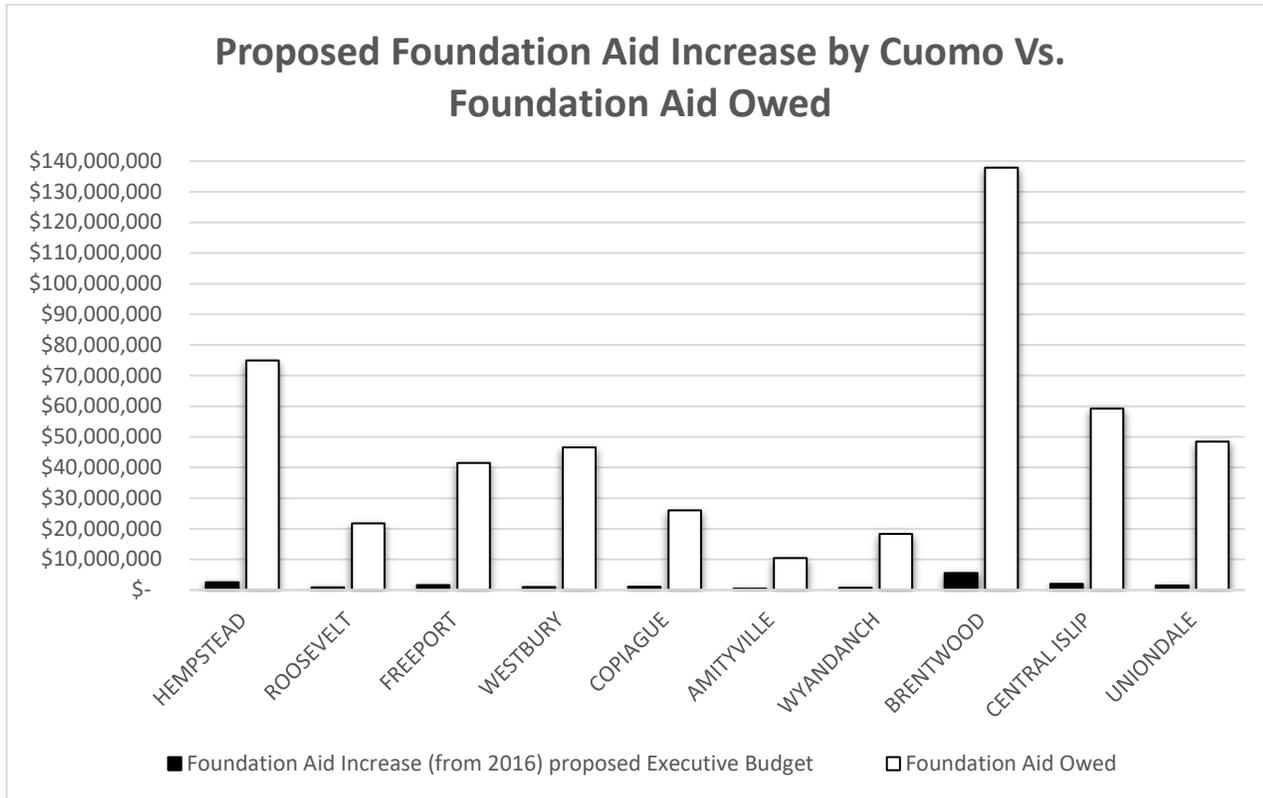
Demographic profile

District	Percent Black Students	Percent of Latino Students	Percent Economically Disadvantaged
HEMPSTEAD	35	61	66
ROOSEVELT	57	43	76
FREEPORT	29	60	64
WESTBURY	29	67	98
COPIAGUE	26	54	72
AMITYVILLE	47	43	77
WYANDANCH	56	42	95
BRENTWOOD	12	79	85
CENTRAL ISLIP	23	69	73
UNIONDALE	47	51	70

District	Foundation Aid Increase (from 2016) proposed Executive Budget	Foundation Aid Owed	Percent increase as a share of amount owed	Senator Representing
HEMPSTEAD	\$ 2,503,089	\$ 74,874,664	3%	Sen. Hannon
ROOSEVELT	\$ 921,155	\$ 21,794,484	4%	Sen. Brooks
FREEPORT	\$ 1,646,757	\$ 41,465,436	4%	Sen. Brooks
WESTBURY	\$ 999,032	\$ 46,590,359	2%	Sen. Phillips
COPIAGUE	\$ 1,118,410	\$ 26,044,994	4%	Sen. Brooks
AMITYVILLE	\$ 469,799	\$ 10,453,874	4%	Sen. Brooks
WYANDANCH	\$ 788,463	\$ 18,357,589	4%	Sen. Boyle
BRENTWOOD	\$ 5,527,764	\$ 137,896,217	4%	Sen. Croci and Boyle
CENTRAL ISLIP	\$ 2,032,847	\$ 59,192,482	3%	Sen. Croci
UNIONDALE	\$ 1,534,424	\$ 48,405,808	3%	Sen. Hannon

The graph above shows that the Executive proposal includes an insufficient amount of funding for the ten high need districts. The total amount of Foundation Aid increased proposed by Governor Cuomo in his Executive Budget is \$428

million. The total amount that the ten Long Island districts would receive under this proposal is \$17 million out of the \$485 million they are owed which represents only a 3.6% of the amount owed from the Campaign for Fiscal Equity commitment.



“The predominantly minority areas are becoming more minority. And the predominantly white areas are staying mostly white.”²

The state of segregation in the suburbs, The Atlantic 2015

Racial segregation is tied to housing segregation. These ten school districts are located not far from villages and towns and that are on the other end of the spectrum in regards to wealth. A recent look into the state of the suburbs, specifically on Long Island, illustrates how the two extremes coexist:

“Two villages, Hempstead and Garden City, lie adjacent to one another in Nassau County. Hempstead has a medium household income of \$52,000. Garden City's is \$150,000. Hempstead, in parts, resembles an inner city — with bodegas, laundromats, low-rise apartment buildings. Garden City is a suburban idyll, with tree-lined streets, gourmet grocery stores, and large colonial-style homes.

² <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/01/the-state-of-segregation-in-the-suburbs/453987/>

Garden City is 88 percent white; Hempstead is 92 percent black and Hispanic (split about evenly). The transition between the two villages occurs within one block, a visual whiplash.”³

Research shows that the more segregated schools become, the least economically diverse are.⁴ In fact, Black and Latino students attend schools that are three times poorer than their White and Asian peers.⁵

Poor districts are treated differently than other districts

The 2016 budget clearly demonstrated differential treatment toward these ten Long Island high need school districts in comparison to average need and wealthy school districts. In 2016, the Senate Majority committed to deliver all of the Gap Elimination Adjustment funding. They did fight to include all of the \$433 million in GEA. But that money did not benefit the high need districts on Long Island, they got only 1% (\$1,021,931) of the \$117 million in GEA delivered to the rest of the districts on Long Island. These Senators never placed the same priority on Foundation Aid as they did in GEA, which meant that in 2016 none of these ten school districts received more than 4% of the Foundation Aid they were due.⁶

The need for more Foundation Aid continues for these districts. Because the Republican Senate Majority have not prioritized funding for these districts, they have not been able to add staff and programs to meet their students' needs. The 2016-17 Republican Majority budget proposal included revision to the Foundation Aid formula that would hurt high need districts including those they represent, as well as NO phase-in to fulfill the commitment to the Campaign for Fiscal Equity. Students need more guidance counselors, social workers, Music and Art, and more staff to be able to offer more advanced electives.

Below is a table of the increase of Foundation Aid as percent of the amount owed to them these school districts received in the Enacted Budget in 2016.

District	2016 Foundation Aid Increase as percent of CFE Funding Owed	2016 GEA Funding
HEMPSTEAD	4%	\$ 18,346
ROOSEVELT	4%	\$ 15,342
FREEPORT	3%	\$ 327,952
WESTBURY	2%	\$ 14,692
COPIAGUE	3%	\$ 35,384
AMITYVILLE	1%	\$ 209,362
WYANDANCH	4%	\$ 10,862
BRENTWOOD	4%	\$ 45,042
CENTRAL ISLIP	4%	\$ 46,688
UNIONDALE	2%	\$ 298,261

³ <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/01/the-state-of-segregation-in-the-suburbs/453987/>

⁴ <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/02/concentration-poverty-american-schools/471414/>

⁵ <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/01/the-state-of-segregation-in-the-suburbs/453987/>

⁶ Alliance for Quality Education, (2016). *CFE Derailed: The State of Our Schools in the Wake of the 2016 New York State Budget* <http://www.aqeny.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CFE-Derailed-June-17-final-1.pdf>

Prioritizing Foundation Aid for these ten districts benefits all 120 Long Island districts

Foundation Aid is beneficial to all school districts, not just to high need districts. Long Island schools are owed \$879 million in Foundation Aid. The ten high need districts are owed half of that, but the other half would go to average need and wealthy districts. The Republican senate majority, because of its unwillingness to prioritize Foundation Aid leave behind the needs of schools across the island, depriving them from resources necessary to add staff and programs.

Senator	Foundation Aid Owed
Senator LaValle	\$ 93,857,733
Senator Flanagan	\$ 30,878,241
Senator Croci	\$ 239,204,214
Senator Boyle	\$ 197,082,430
Senator Marcellino	\$ 77,574,022
Senator Hannon	\$ 192,871,786
Senator Phillips	\$ 109,871,850
Senator Brooks	\$ 192,929,291
Senator Kaminsky	\$ 86,369,030

The Assembly majority has already announced that it is committed to fully funding Foundation Aid and that it will include in its one house budget proposal a phase in that will fulfill the commitment in a timely manner.

The New York State Board of Regents proposed a three year phase-in of Foundation Aid, with a \$1.4 billion in Foundation Aid for 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20. The Senate majority committed to fully funding GEA last year, but so far has made no commitments to a phase in or fully funding Foundation Aid. The budget for each house is coming in March. The Senate majority needs to commit to a phase in and fully funding Foundation Aid in order to meet the Campaign for Fiscal Equity statewide settlement commitment and the need of the schools they represent.

Money matters for schools and students

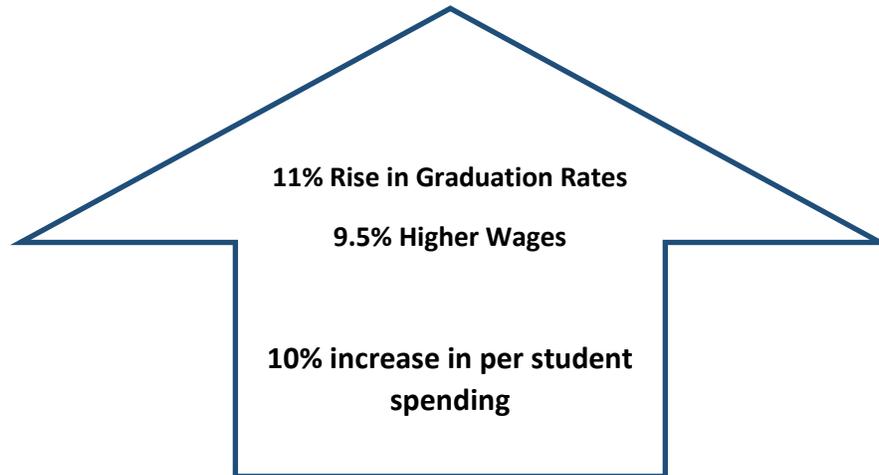
Research tells us that money matters, especially to low income communities and to communities of color. When per pupil spending is increased by 10%, graduation rates go up (by 11 almost 12%), students are more likely to go and complete college and make approximately 9% more than they would otherwise in adult wages.⁷ A 2016

⁷ Jackson, C.K., Johnson, R.C., & Persico, C. (2016). The effects of school spending on educational and economic outcomes: Evidence from school finance reforms. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 131(1).

study found that increase spending by \$320 per student starting in kindergarten yields more than \$5,000 increased adult earnings.⁸ As the authors put it:

“...results thus show that money can and does matter in education, and complement similar results for the long-run impacts of school finance reforms.”

If we were to increase education spending by 10% as the research recommends, it is likely that the gaps that persist would close faster. It would take adequate funding through the Foundation Aid formula and a commitment to adequate increases thereafter to achieve that.



Brief history of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity

The Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit was brought against the state in 1993 by New York City parents who claimed that the state was chronically underfunding city schools. The case made it through all levels of court, when the final decision was issued by the Court of Appeals in 2006 ordering the state to provide adequate funding to remedy the issue that was brought to courts, stating clearly that the state was violating its own constitution by not providing a “sound basic education.”

In 2007 Elliot Spitzer became governor and fulfilled the promise of reforming state law to make school funding transparent, predictable, stable and adequate. The state settled the Campaign for Fiscal equity on a statewide basis by enacting a four year commitment of providing \$5.5 billion of operating aid through the Foundation Aid formula, the formula they created to drive funding based on student need. Only two years of that commitment were provided before the state made massive cuts to school funding to balance its budget on the backs of schoolchildren. Since then, there were only small, insufficient amounts of Foundation Aid provided to schools across the state.

⁸ National Bureau of Economic Research (2016). Lafortune, J., Rothstein, J. & Whitmore Schanzenbach, D. School Finance Reform and the Distribution of Student Achievement.

Methodology

The data for this report was provided by the New York State Education Department electronic school aid files for the Executive Budget 2017-18. The data for the demographic information is also from the State Education Department and can be retrieved at <https://data.nysed.gov/downloads.php>

To calculate the percent of Foundation Aid in the Executive Budget proposal for 2017-18 for school districts as a share of the amount of Foundation Aid they are owed, we divided the amount proposed in the executive budget by the amount they are owed.