



**Central New York
School Boards Association**

Annual Legislative Breakfast

West Genesee Senior High School

February 7, 2009

Camillus, NY

Welcome

A Special Thank You

**To the Legislators, Board Members,
Superintendents and all others who are
working hard to ensure high quality
public schools in New York State**





If enacted, the Governor's proposed cuts to education will have profound consequences.

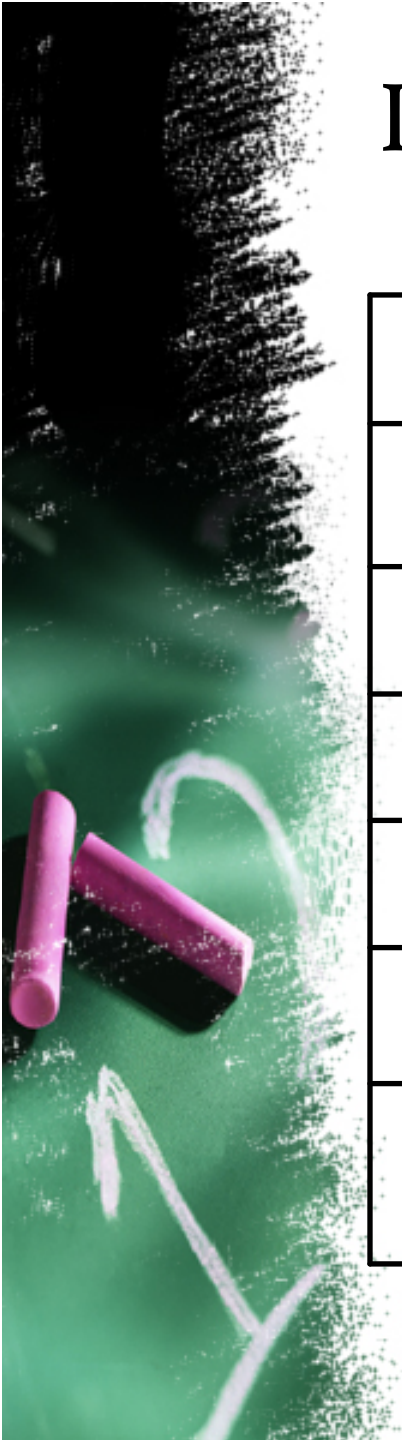
- Programs for students will be eliminated and jobs will be cut.
- The impact will be greatest on districts that already have the least to cut.

Impact of Governor's Proposed Cuts** ...

District A: High Wealth District
Annual Budget: \$20 Million
10% State / 90% Local Funding \$2 Million State Aid
Impact of Governor's Proposed Cuts: 13% = -\$260,200
Proposed New budget: \$20 Million (Frozen)
State / Local Funding: \$1.7 Million State \$18.3 Million Local
LOCAL TAX INCREASE: 1.44%

District D: High Needs District
Annual Budget: \$20 Million
75% State / 25% Local Funding \$15 Million State Aid
Impact of Governor's Proposed Cuts: 3.32% = -\$498,375
Proposed New budget: \$20 Million (Frozen)
State / Local Funding: \$14.5 Million State \$5.5 Million Local
LOCAL TAX INCREASE: 9.97%


****based on No budget increase**



Impact of Governor's Proposed Cuts** ...

District A: High Wealth District	District B: Average Wealth District	District C: Low Wealth District	District D: High Needs District
Annual Budget: \$20 Million	Annual Budget: \$20 Million	Annual Budget: \$20 Million	Annual Budget: \$20 Million
10% State / 90% Local Funding \$2 Million State Aid	25% State / 75% Local Funding \$5 Million State Aid	50% State / 50% Local Funding \$10 Million State Aid	75% State / 25% Local Funding \$15 Million State Aid
Impact of Governor's Proposed Cuts: 13% = -\$260,200	Impact of Governor's Proposed Cuts: 10.5% = -\$526,250	Impact of Governor's Proposed Cuts: 7.29% = -\$729,000	Impact of Governor's Proposed Cuts: 3.32% = -\$498,375
Proposed New budget: \$20 Million (Frozen)	Proposed New budget: \$20 Million (Frozen)	Proposed New budget: \$20 Million (Frozen)	Proposed New budget: \$20 Million (Frozen)
State / Local Funding: \$1.7 Million State \$18.3 Million Local	State / Local Funding: \$4.5 Million State \$15.5 Million Local	State / Local Funding: \$9.3 Million State \$10.7 Million Local	State / Local Funding: \$14.5 Million State \$5.5 Million Local
LOCAL TAX INCREASE: 1.44%	LOCAL TAX INCREASE: 3.51%	LOCAL TAX INCREASE: 7.29%	LOCAL TAX INCREASE: 9.97%

**based on No budget increase



These cuts and cost shifts cannot simply be pushed from the State to the school districts to the local taxpayers. Taxpayer frustration is already very high and exacerbated by the weakened economy.



Why Don't Schools Spend Less Money?

TRIBOROUGH



School Boards cannot unilaterally reduce pension and health insurance costs

- Pension costs have been increased by the state (with the generous enhancements enacted by the Governor & Legislature several years ago) and are now poised to shoot up even more because of the stock market's decline. Schools have no control over this.
- Health insurance costs continue to rise dramatically. Schools have no control over those cost increases, and are inhibited by Triborough from having their employees share more fully in the cost of their own insurance.



The Control of Costs rests with SED and the Legislature

- Special Education costs continue to rise. Districts have very limited power to control those costs. The state could reduce special education costs for itself and districts by adhering to federal guidelines rather than imposing more stringent and costly state rules.



Limitations and Shifted Burdens

- Schools lack the power to simply reduce their costs. Triborough prevents us from doing so.
- Either change the Triborough Amendment to give school districts greater leverage in negotiations or legislatively change what public employees and employers must contribute to health care costs, pension.
- These cuts and cost shifts cannot simply be pushed from the State to the school districts to the local taxpayers.



New Unfunded Mandates?

- The Pre-K special education cost shifts are another unfunded mandate that will further cripple school district finances.



Our Challenge to the Governor and State Legislature

Whatever happens to these school districts, the children they serve and the taxpayers, has been and continues to be, up to you.

Thank You

We appreciate the difficult decisions before you.

We will guide and support your efforts to save our schools.

Your participation today and support for our schools is appreciated.