



NASSAU-SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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April 18, 2005

TO: Long Island Senators and Assemblymembers

FROM: Jeannette Santos, President
Jim Kaden, Legislation Committee Chair

RE: NYS Comptroller's Five-Point Legislation
For Increased Oversight of School Finances

In the aftermath of the initial revelations of apparent fiscal misdeeds in the Roslyn School District, the Officers of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association met with Long Island legislators and educational leaders to seek to address issues emanating from the reported fiscal improprieties. In addition to supporting the Comptroller's request for funding that would enable his office to resume the cyclical audits of school districts for which it had once been responsible, N-SSBA endorsed efforts to create legislation that would provide reasonable assurance to our taxpayers that their tax dollars are being managed properly and that districts are complying with their fiduciary responsibilities.

The collaboration of New York State School Boards Association, New York State Council of School Superintendents, New York State Association of School Business Officials, the State Education Department, and the New York State Society of CPA's with the Office of the State Comptroller resulted in the "Five-Point Plan" that emanated from the Comptroller's Office.

N-SSBA believes that the Five-Point Plan, as written and agreed upon by the coalition and endorsed by many Long Island Senators and Assemblymembers, represents sound proposals that will provide meaningful and cost-effective safeguards.

On behalf of our 112 member boards and the tax-paying public, the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association urges you to reject changes to the agreed-upon Five Point Plan that would negate its well-balanced approach that takes into account practical considerations for implementing fiscal reforms among the diverse school districts across the state.