



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: Contingency Budget Cap**

In the aftermath of last year's 45 re-votes on Long Island school budgets, 9 of our school districts were forced to operate under contingency budgets. These districts were confronted with many difficult choices in order to incorporate increases in mandatory pension and health insurance contributions, liability insurance and escalating utility/fuel costs into the state-mandated contingency budget cap.

The high-cost expenditures that drove unusually high budget-to-budget increases last year remain a factor in this year's budgets and may once again jeopardize voter approval of schools' spending plans. For districts suffering a second budget defeat these same expenses, that are outside the scope of a school district's control, will again diminish the monies allocated for educational program.

On behalf of our 112 member boards of education, the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association implores our Long Island State Senators and Assemblymembers to advance legislation that would remove from the cap the following high-cost items that are beyond the control of local school boards: TRS and ERS contributions, employee health insurance contributions, liability insurance and utility/fuel costs above that of the prior year.